

1 HR194  
2 213070-1  
3 By Representative Wood (D)  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 13-APR-21

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MAJOR JOHN WILLIE GIBSON.  
9

10 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
11 death on March 23, 2021, of Major John Willie Gibson of  
12 Valley, Alabama, at the age of 85; and

13 WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of  
14 his loving family, many friends, and the entire community,  
15 where he was highly regarded; and

16 WHEREAS, Major Gibson was born on July 18, 1935, to  
17 Willie Green Gibson and Lena Mae Moody-Gibson; and

18 WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Gip", Major Gibson  
19 joined Rehoboth Baptist Church at an early age; and

20 WHEREAS, he attended Rehoboth High School before  
21 graduating from Lanier High School in Lanett, Alabama; in  
22 1954, he relocated to New York City, New York, and was drafted  
23 into the military, where he served from September 1954 to  
24 November 1956; on July 10, 1954, he married Willie Louise  
25 Brown Gibson; during his time in New York, he attended New  
26 York University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree, and he  
27 worked for Avis Rent-A-Car as a Security Manager for 17 years,

1 which covered the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and  
2 Pennsylvania areas; he was the first black to be promoted from  
3 Agent to Station Manager and then to City Manager; later, he  
4 was promoted to the World Headquarters in Garden City, New  
5 York, a position that covered three states, and he was the  
6 first black to serve as Union Manager; and

7               WHEREAS, retiring after 17 years, Major Gibson moved  
8 back to his home state of Alabama, where he joined the  
9 Chambers County Sheriff Department and obtained the rank of  
10 Captain; he retired after 23 years of service; later, he  
11 joined the Civil Air Patrol in Auburn, Alabama, where he  
12 became skilled in Composite, SQ Flight Systems and earned the  
13 rank of Major; as his last duty service, he flew helicopters  
14 as a Search and Rescue Agent; at his longtime church of  
15 Rehoboth Baptist Church, he served as a member of the Trustee  
16 Board, the Chairman of the Transportation Committee, a member  
17 of the Senior Ministry, the Chairperson of the Building  
18 Maintenance Committee, and Church Security; and

19               WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his son, Tony  
20 Blue; and

21               WHEREAS, Major Gibson is survived by his daughters,  
22 Sharon Gibson Williams (Van Don), Terry Gibson, Anita Gibson,  
23 Michelle Gibson, Tonia Franklin, and Vanessa Edmonson (Mike);  
24 sons, Gregory Gibson (Stacie), Tracey Blue, Marcus Stokes, and  
25 Paul Blue; 17 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and five  
26 great-great-grandchildren; and

1                   WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
2 missed, the memory of Major Gibson will be cherished in the  
3 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

4                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
5 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Major John  
6 Willie Gibson is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
7 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with  
8 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by  
9 many.