HR38

1MKF333-1

By Representative Sellers

RFD:

First Read: 14-Feb-24

HR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. ORA M. BANKS-PARKER.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the passing of Dr. Ora M. Banks-Parker, longtime resident of Jefferson County, on February 9, 2024, at the age of 106; a long life well-lived, her departure leaves a void in the hearts of her loving family, many friends, and her community, where she was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Ora M. Banks-Parker was born on May 12, 1917, in Marengo County, Alabama, to the union of Eula G. and Bruce Banks; the family moved to Jefferson County while Ora was an infant; she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age, and she was baptized by Dr. C.H. Taylor and united with the First Baptist Church of Ensley; she attended Birmingham City Schools and graduated from the Councill School in Ensley, Industrial High School in Birmingham, and Freeman/Griggs Business College; and

WHEREAS, while still at First Baptist Church of Ensley, Ora married Reverend Dr. Charles H. Parker and subsequently moved to Selma, Alabama, where Dr. Parker served as pastor of West Trinity Baptist Church for over 10 years; while in Selma, Ora studied and received an associate's degree in Elementary Education from Selma University, where she also worked for three years; and

WHEREAS, the Parker family relocated to Birmingham, where Reverend Dr. Parker accepted the pastorate of the Thirty-Second Street Baptist Church and served for over 35 years; Ora continued her studies and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Alabama State University, a Master of Education Degree from Tuskegee University, and Certificates for Modern Math from Alabama State University and In Ready from Peabody Teacher's College, in Nashville, Tennessee; she received an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Birmingham Baptist Bible College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ora Banks-Parker's love of education and desire to help children reach their fullest potential led her to serve in the Jefferson County School System for 32 years; her first teaching job was at Hooper City High School and her last position was at Shades Mountain Elementary School in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Banks-Parker also served her community and church, including volunteering as an adult reading instructor, Chaplain of the local Birmingham Alumni Chapter of Alabama State University for 20 years, Secretary of the Alabama State Congress of Christian Education for more than 30 years, and she was part of the Board of Directors for Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College for more than 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Ora Banks-Parker faithfully dedicated herself to the service of her church and church family; she was always full of energy and she sought ways to encourage and help others in any way that she could; she taught Sunday

School, sang in the choir, served on the Missionary Ministry, and sponsored a media project for her home church, First Baptist Church of Ensley, which resulted in the installation of three large media screens; and

WHEREAS, Ora M. Banks-Parker was known to all as a kind, loving, and compassionate person; she credited her long life to the Lord, as he brought her through so "many wonderful things"; her favorite Bible Scripture was Psalm 116:12, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?"; and

WHEREAS, left to treasure the memory of Dr. Ora M. Banks-Parker are her three godchildren, Mrs. Margaree Martin, Ms. Millicent Martin Poole (Christina, Angelica), and Dr. Oscar L. Martin, Jr.; foster daughter, Mrs. Willie E. Vincent; many beloved cousins and extended family members; and hundreds of students whom she patiently dedicated her life to teaching; and

WHEREAS, although her presence will be greatly missed, the memory of Dr. Ora M. Banks-Parker will be cherished by all who knew and loved her; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Dr. Ora M. Banks-Parker is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute to her life and service, along with heartfelt sympathy to her loved ones, whose grief is shared by many.