HR41

2QH2KII-1

By Representative Givan

RFD:

First Read: 15-Feb-24

HR___ CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GLADYS MOTLEY NORMAN.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death of Gladys Motley Norman, on February 5, 2024, at the age of 84; her passing leaves a void in the lives of her loving family, many friends, and the community where she was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Norman was born on March 28, 1939, to Chinney B. Motley and Annie B. Davis in Montgomery, Alabama; she accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at North Court Street Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Norman received her early education in the Montgomery School System and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School; she matriculated to Alabama State University (ASU) where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Art History and African American History; she furthered her education by pursuing two Master's degrees, one from Alabama State University in Art and History, and the other from Wesley University in Nebraska; additionally, she furthered her education through the Art Institute of Chicago, formerly known as the Chicago Institute of Fine Arts; and

WHEREAS, upon receiving her bachelor's degree from ASU, she became employed at Fairfield Industrial High School in Fairfield as an Art teacher; she later became one of the

first Black teachers to integrate Jefferson County Schools at Leeds High School; she remained a teacher with Jefferson County at Minor High School for the following 43 years; during her career, she received numerous awards and accolades and was recognized for her work of enhancing the lives of her many students though art, a tool used to transcend cultural barriers; and

WHEREAS, she was united in holy matrimony to her loving husband, Theodore Roosevelt Norman, in March of 1965 and their union was blessed with two beautiful daughters; Gladys Norman remained devoted to her husband until his death on December 17, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Norman was most content when surrounded by her family; her love for gardening and creating a beautiful yard full of flowers was legendary; she was a stalwart member of her community and was devoted to her students; and as a result of her generous spirit and pleasant personality, she was loved by many; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Norman is preceded in death by her parents; and brothers, Robert L. Pitts and Morris L. Pitts; and

WHEREAS, left to treasure her beloved memory are her daughters, Melonie Norman and Kimberly Norman Fann; bonus daughter, Shun Sanders; grandchildren, Taylor D. Norman, Ariana J. Norman, Kayla D. Norman-Fann, and Tristen R. Norman; great-grandchildren, Skylar N. Ivory and Amoi H. Ivory; sister, Doris Pitts-Carter; sisters-in-law, Sally Pitts (Morris) and Rosemary Pitts (Robert); brother-in-law,

Rufus Norman; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, art club sisters, and friends; and

WHEREAS, although her presence will be greatly missed, the memory of Gladys Motley Norman will be cherished in the hearts of 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 Gladys Motley Norman is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute to her life and service to others, along with heartfelt sympathy to her family, whose grief is shared by many.