HR45

HLWH668-1

By Representative Jackson

RFD:

First Read: 11-Feb-25

HR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REVEREND WILLIE POWELL.

WHEREAS, with an overwhelming sense of loss, we mourn the death, yet celebrate the life, of Reverend Willie "Good News" Powell, whose passing on January 23, 2025, at the age of 79, has left a void in the lives of his loving family, friends, and the community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Willie Powell was born January 25, 1945, to Charlie and Nettie Ann Ransom Powell in the Cold Bluff community; he was affectionately known as "Albert" among his siblings; and

WHEREAS, he began his education in the Wilcox County School System; he attended Cold Bluff Elementary School and Yellow Bluff School; finally, he completed his secondary education at Harper High School in Jackson, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, during his formative years, Willie was reared on his family's farm; he spent countless hours working in the fields, performing chores, cutting wood, tending livestock, and accomplishing any other task that was required of him; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Willie relocated to Indianapolis and started his first business, a landscaping company that provided services to personal property owners and businesses in the area; and

WHEREAS, after his venture in Indianapolis, Willie returned to Alabama and owned and operated the Yellow Bluff Grocery Store; Willie was able to establish connections throughout the county and forge relationships that would last a lifetime; some of these connections included the late Reverend T.L. Threadgill, the late County Commissioner Bobby Joe Johnson, and former County Commissioner Eddie Beverly; it was these connections that helped spur Willie toward a political career; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Willie made history by becoming the first African American Circuit Clerk to be elected in Wilcox County; he served his county for 15 years and showed unwavering dedication to its residents; and

WHEREAS, a true entrepreneur, Willie continued seeking out business ventures; while serving as Circuit Clerk in 1989, he purchased the Christian Memorial Funeral Home; he would go on to purchase and operate several Christian Memorial Funeral Homes throughout his community; and

WHEREAS, one business venture that stood out was his purchasing of the local radio station WYVC 102.3; it would be here that he would earn the nickname "Good News" as he provided entertainment and gospel programming to anyone who would listen; and

WHEREAS, outside of his role in politics, Reverend Powell was called to the ministry; his church home was Mt. Gillard Baptist Church in Yellow Bluff; he is the former pastor of Spiritual Power Church in Yellow Bluff, Lily

Baptist Church in Annie Manie, and St. Mary's Church in Darlington; his contributions and fundraising efforts helped to rebuild Lily Baptist Church and St. Mary's Church; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Powell was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Lena Mahan Powell; sons, Rodney Keith Powell and Ronald Abrams; grandsons, Malcom Shymil Jones and Gabriel Willie "Boomer" Quarles; son-in-law, Attorney Ty Quarles; brothers, Lee Bony Powell, Houston James Powell, Norah "Bo Bo" Powell, Sylvester Powell, James "Tim" Powell, and Elbert "Sly" Powell; and sisters, Sadie Gipson, Mattie B. Powell, Lucy Bell Hawkins, and Pastor Carrie Ann McCord; and

WHEREAS, he will be lovingly remembered by his spouse, Stephinie Dortch Powell; sons, Ricky Powell (Talissa), Rickel Powell (Latanya), Tyrone Huff, and Adam Kidd (Robin); daughters, Chandra Quarles, Donyale Love (James), and Ashley Dortch (Daryl); 28 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; devoted granddaughter, Honorable Judge Briana Westry; sisters, Ella Beckham and Lula McCellan; and a host of other family, friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Powell leaves behind a legacy of honor and service which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Reverend Willie "Good News" Powell is recorded with deep sadness, and this

resolution is offered in tribute to his life and service to others, along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many.