

1 HJR31  
2 135394-2  
3 By Representatives Holmes, Knight and McClammy  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 07-FEB-12

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,  
COMMENDING FRED GRAY ON THE OCCASION OF BEING  
HONORED BY JONES LAW SCHOOL AT FAULKNER UNIVERSITY.

WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein conveyed to one of Alabama's most distinguished attorneys, Fred David Gray, on the occasion of being honored by Jones Law School of Faulkner University on February 9-10, 2012; and

WHEREIN, a resident of Tuskegee and a native of Montgomery, Mr. Gray is the senior partner in the firm of Gray, Langford, Sapp, McGowan, Gray, Gray, and Nathanson, P.C.; over the span of more than 57 years in the legal profession, he achieved success in a series of landmark civil rights cases that transformed the state and the nation and are cited in Constitutional Law textbooks; and

WHEREAS, among the legal milestones in which Mr. Gray played a key role were: the concept of one man one vote, the mandate to provide protection for freedom marchers, the end to systematic exclusion of Blacks from jury service, the integration of all State institutions of higher learning and most of the school systems in Alabama, and the desegregation of buses in the City of Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, after being educated at the Nashville Christian Institute, Alabama State University, and Case

1 Western Reserve University, he embarked upon his distinguished  
2 legal career in 1954 by representing Rosa Parks, followed by  
3 becoming the first civil rights attorney for Dr. Martin Luther  
4 King, Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, renowned as a litigator, lecturer, and  
6 trailblazer, he was one of the first African-Americans elected  
7 to the Alabama House of Representatives since Reconstruction;  
8 he was the first African-American to be elected President of  
9 the Alabama State Bar Association, and he served as the 43rd  
10 President of the National Bar Association; he is a Fellow of  
11 the American Bar Foundation, American College of Trial  
12 Lawyers, and International Society of Barristers; in addition,  
13 he has served on many court-appointed committees including as  
14 a member of the Merit Selection of Appellate Judges Committee;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, few individuals can match Mr. Gray's legal  
17 achievements and contributions to mankind through a lifetime  
18 of dedicated service that has been marked by exceptional  
19 abilities, vision, courage, unquestioned integrity, and the  
20 relentless pursuit of justice; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Fred David Gray is honored and  
23 commended, and this resolution is offered in highest tribute  
24 and deepest appreciation to him, along with heartiest  
25 congratulations on being honored by the Jones School of Law of

1 Faulkner University on February 9-10, 2012, with a dinner and  
2 symposium entitled: Attorney Fred Gray, A Change Agent for  
3 Civil Rights.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was adopted by the House 09-FEB-12.

Greg Pappas  
Clerk

Senate

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16-FEB-12

Adopted