

1 HJR62  
2 210609-2  
3 By Representative Hall  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 23-FEB-21

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DISTINGUISHED CIVIL RIGHTS  
4 LEADER, REVEREND JESSE MILAN.

5  
6 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
7 death on February 8, 2021, of distinguished Civil Rights  
8 leader, Reverend Jesse Milan, at the age of 92; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Reverend Milan was born on March 3, 1928,  
13 in Dupree, Oklahoma; and

14 WHEREAS, at a young age, he moved to Kansas City,  
15 Kansas, where he graduated from Sumner High School in 1946; he  
16 served in the United States Air Force twice, including during  
17 the Korean War, before attending The University of Kansas,  
18 where he earned a Master's Degree in Education in 1954;  
19 following graduation, he began his teaching career, becoming  
20 the first black public school teacher in the Lawrence school  
21 district; he taught physical education and social studies at  
22 Central Junior High, now Liberty Memorial Central Middle  
23 School, and then served as a Physical Education Consultant for  
24 all of Lawrence's elementary schools; as a role model, he  
25 positively impacted the lives of his students; and

1           WHEREAS, in 1958, Reverend Milan received the  
2 Lawrence Junior Chamber of Commerce Young Man of the Year  
3 Award; several years later, Pinckney Elementary School  
4 dedicated the Jesse Milan Preschool in his honor; while still  
5 teaching in Lawrence, he became an Assistant Professor of  
6 Education at Baker University in Baldwin City, making him the  
7 university's first black professor; also, he founded Mungano,  
8 Baker University's first student diversity organization; in  
9 2001, Baker University awarded him an honorary doctorate; and

10           WHEREAS, in 1971, Reverend Milan became the Regional  
11 Director of Compliance for the U.S. Department of Housing and  
12 Urban Development's housing office, which covered Kansas,  
13 Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa; in 1988, he retired; in 2003, he  
14 received the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
15 Secretary's Pioneer Award; later, former President George W.  
16 Bush appointed Reverend Milan to a commission remembering the  
17 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education; and

18           WHEREAS, at the age of 75, Reverend Milan became  
19 ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church; he served at St.  
20 Martin in the Field in Edwardsville for 10 years and then  
21 retired and received the Bishop's Cross Award for his life of  
22 service to the church; and

23           WHEREAS, during his lifetime, he also volunteered at  
24 Kansas University's relays for 50 years, mentored many  
25 basketball and football players at Kansas University, was one

1 of the individuals selected to carry the 1996 Olympic torch  
2 through part of Kansas, led the Kansas branch of the National  
3 Association of the Advancement of Colored People, led the  
4 Optimist Club, and volunteered for the Salvation Army, where  
5 he stood by the donation bucket outside of Walmart during the  
6 holiday season, singing to people as they walked inside; he  
7 loved the song, "Don't Worry, Be Happy"; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Milan was preceded in death by his  
9 wife of nearly 60 years, Alverse R. Brewster; and

10 WHEREAS, he is survived by his children, Jesse  
11 Milan, Jr., John Edward Milan, Julie Ann Milan, and Joy Lynne  
12 Milan; and two grandchildren; and

13 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
14 missed, the memory of Reverend Milan will be cherished in the  
15 hearts of all who knew and loved him, and his inspiring story  
16 will continue to touch the lives of many; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of distinguished  
19 Civil Rights leader, Reverend Jesse Milan, is recorded with  
20 deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute to his  
21 life, along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief  
22 is shared by many.

