

1 HJR77
2 136911-2
3 By Representatives Buskey, Warren, Baker, Ball, Bandy, Barton,
4 Baughn, Beckman, Beech, Black, Boman, Boothe, Boyd, Bracy,
5 Bridges, Brown, Burdine, Buttram, Carns, Chesteen, Clouse,
6 Coleman, Collins, Colston, Davis, DeMarco, Drake, England,
7 Farley, Faust, Fincher, Ford, Forte, Galliher, Gaston, Givan,
8 Greer, Greeson, Grimsley, Hall, Hammon, Harper, Henry, Hill,
9 Holmes, Howard, Hubbard (J), Hubbard (M), Hurst, Ison,
10 Jackson, Johnson (K), Johnson (R), Johnson (W), Jones,
11 Kennedy, Knight, Laird, Lee, Lindsey, Long, Love, Mask,
12 McAdory, McCampbell, McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin,
13 McCutcheon, McMillan, Melton, Merrill, Millican, Mitchell,
14 Moore (B), Moore (M), Morrow, Newton (C), Newton (D),
15 Nordgren, Oden, Patterson, Payne, Poole, Rich, Roberts,
16 Robinson (J), Robinson (O), Rogers, Sanderford, Scott,
17 Sessions, Shiver, Thomas, Todd, Treadaway, Tuggle, Vance,
18 Wallace, Weaver, Williams (D), Williams (J), Williams (P),
19 Wood and Wren
20 RFD: Rules
21 First Read: 14-FEB-12

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. W.L. STRAIN AS A GREAT
4 ADVOCATE FOR SICKLE CELL ORGANIZATIONS.

5
6 WHEREAS, with deep sadness for his death but in
7 admiration and appreciation of his life, we record the passing
8 of Mr. W. L. Strain of Tuskegee, Alabama, on September 14,
9 2011, at the age of 81 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Strain was revered as an icon in the
11 battle against Sickle Cell Disease and a champion in the arena
12 of equal rights; and

13 WHEREAS, born on April 16, 1930, in Decatur,
14 Alabama, he became a devout Christian at an early age and
15 joined Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church after moving to
16 Tuskegee; and

17 WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in
18 1954 in Agriculture Science and a Master of Science Degree in
19 Agriculture Education, both from Tuskegee Institute; he then
20 served his country with honor and distinction, commissioned as
21 a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, prior to
22 receiving a terminal degree in Agriculture Journalism from the
23 University of Wisconsin; and

24 WHEREAS, always an exceptional student, Mr. Strain
25 worked very hard to overcome challenging circumstances in

1 order to reach his desired goals; he was noted for his
2 perseverance and tenacity in working to achieve equality for
3 African-Americans, women, and other minorities, including
4 those who faced discriminatory practices in the Alabama
5 Cooperative Extension System, where he was instrumental in
6 creating unprecedented opportunities for minorities and later
7 became Assistant Director and Head of the Cooperative
8 Extension Services Information Services Unit and also an
9 Associate Professor in the Journalism Department at Auburn
10 University; he retired in 1995 with the rank of Professor
11 Emeritus in two Colleges of Auburn University and remained
12 very active in effective service to his profession and the
13 community; and

14 WHEREAS, he was a dedicated and active member of
15 numerous professional organizations and civil rights groups,
16 including being a founder of the Auburn Black Caucus, which
17 awarded its first W. L. Strain Award in 1995; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Strain was especially active in the
19 advocacy of Sickle Cell treatment and research organizations,
20 serving as president of the Board of Directors of the
21 Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Association during the mid
22 1980s; in his capacity as president, he began working with the
23 members of the Alabama Legislative Black Caucus and the
24 various committee chairs in behalf of additional funding for
25 Sickle Cell and became the contact person for the Sickle Cell

1 Chapters in Alabama, working with Representative James E.
2 Buskey and Senator Hank Sanders along with others on many
3 occasions during Budget Hearings by the Legislature as well as
4 during the legislative session, and effectively monitoring the
5 entire funding process for Sickle Cell until the budgets were
6 signed by the Governor; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Strain worked with the Sunset Committee
8 of the Alabama Legislature to help create the Sickle Cell
9 Oversight and Regulatory Commission, which was enacted in 1996
10 by Act 96-727, and funding to this Commission was \$1,304,771
11 in 2011; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Strain's legacy as a great advocate for
13 Sickle Cell Organizations will endure far into the future; now
14 therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. W.L. Strain
17 is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered
18 in highest tribute to his life, along with heartfelt sympathy
19 to his family, whose grief we share.

