

HR130 INTRODUCED



1 P5BWGE-1
2 By Representative Chestnut
3 RFD:
4 First Read: 27-Apr-23
5
6 2023 Regular Session



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. EARNEST L. TATE.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death of Mr. Earnest L. Tate; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Tate was born on October 28, 1935, in Thomasville, Alabama, to Henry Tate and Mable Pennington Tate; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Thomasville High School, Mr. Tate moved to Selma, Alabama, in 1957, where he met his wife, Norma; they were united in holy matrimony on November 4, 1962; and

WHEREAS, after arriving in Selma, Mr. Tate was employed by the United States Postal Service as a mail truck driver; in 1967, he became the first African American to be awarded a Star Route Mail Carrier Contract; in 1968, he was one of four African Americans to integrate the Selma Police Department; promoted through the ranks, he became a Sergeant in 1971 and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1977; he served as the Shift Commander of all uniformed patrol officers from



HR130 INTRODUCED

26 1994-1995 and as the Assistant Chief of Police from
27 1995-1997; he became the first African American Chief of
28 Police for the Historic City of Selma in November 1997, and
29 he retired as Chief in April 2002; during retirement, he
30 enjoyed working on his farm with his wife; and

31 WHEREAS, the recipient of many awards, Mr. Tate
32 earned the State of Alabama 2009 Senior Citizens Hall of
33 Fame Golden Eagle Medal of Honor, the Living Legend Award
34 for Outstanding Leadership and Community Service, Selma City
35 Police Chief Leadership Award, United States Department of
36 Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation Recognition Award,
37 and an award from Anybody Can Recover, Incorporated, for
38 outstanding performance and excellence in community service
39 and professionalism; he was also a member of Edwards Life
40 Sciences Patient Hall of Fame in Irvine, California; in
41 January 2020, Cole Street in Selma, Alabama, was renamed
42 Earnest L. Tate Street; and

43 WHEREAS, Mr. Tate was a member of Elbethel Missionary
44 Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon, a Trustee, and
45 the Treasurer of the Finance Department; in addition, he was
46 a member of the FOP Lodge; Alabama Cattleman's Association;
47 Alabama Star Route Mail Association, where he was also a
48 board member; and ARSEA Retirement Association; and

49 WHEREAS, Mr. Tate is survived by his wife of 60
50 years, Norma Jean Sturdivant Tate; sons, Ricky Tate and



HR130 INTRODUCED

51 Terry Tate (Ixchel); granddaughters, Jadyne, Jordyn, Piper,
52 and Madison; sister, Ruth Jackson; in-laws, Ira Rivers
53 (Kenneth), Richard Curtis, Glen Curtis (Darlene), and Cheryl
54 Ratcliff (Eric); special niece, Doris Washington; and a host
55 of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends; and

56 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
57 missed, the memory of Mr. Tate will be cherished in the
58 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

59 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
60 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. Earnest L.
61 Tate is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is
62 offered in tribute to his life, along with heartfelt
63 sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many.