

1 HR213
2 176245-1
3 By Representative Jackson
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-APR-16

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7
8 CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOYCE PENN COWAN.

9
10 WHEREAS, with utmost reverence and respect, we
11 uplift the life and legacy of Joyce Penn Cowan, who passed
12 away February 24, 2016, at 65 years of age; and

13 WHEREAS, the passing of Joyce Penn Cowan leaves a
14 void in the lives of her loving family, many friends, and the
15 entire community, where she was highly regarded; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Cowan was born June 3, 1950, in Lower
17 Peach Tree, Alabama, to the union of the late Jim and Ethel
18 Penn; she joined the Lily Baptist Church of Fulton at an early
19 age and later joined Spencer Chapel African Methodist
20 Episcopal Church in Fulton, where she remained a faithful
21 member; she later moved to Thomasville; and

22 WHEREAS, she married Harold Cowan, Sr., and their
23 blissful union was blessed with one son, Harold Cowan, Jr.;
24 Mrs. Cowan was an active Sunday School, Baptist Training
25 Union, and Vacation Bible School member at Lily Baptist; at
26 Spencer Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, she was a
27 member of the choir, secretary of Sunday School, a member and

1 secretary of the Steward Board, a member and secretary of the
2 local Bessie N. DuBose Missionary Society, and a member and
3 secretary of the Mannie B. Johns Area Women Missionary
4 Society; in addition, she was affiliated with the Young
5 People's Department and served as recording secretary for the
6 church for over 40 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Cowan attended Fulton Elementary
8 School and graduated from Wilson Hall High School in Grove
9 Hill, where she excelled in the classroom and in
10 extracurricular activities; she was a varsity cheerleader and
11 received selection as Miss Wilson Hall during her junior year;
12 upon graduation, she entered employment with Solomon Brothers
13 Corporation in Thomasville; she then worked for H.A. Satin
14 women's apparel in Grove Hill before returning to Thomasville
15 to work for the Hilton Shirt Factory Corporation; and

16 WHEREAS, her education and advanced sewing skills
17 landed her a teaching position at Hobson State Technical
18 College/Alabama Southern Community College in Thomasville; she
19 served as the Commercial Sewing Instructor and worked as the
20 receptionist until her retirement in August 2000; and

21 WHEREAS, survivors include her son, Harold James
22 Cowan, Jr.; two sisters, Jewel (Ronnie) Slaughter and Lorean
23 (Lee Andrew) Berry, Sr.; two uncles, William (Mazie) Timmons
24 and O'Neal Jones; and six sisters-in-law; she was preceded in
25 death by her beloved and devoted husband, Harold Cowan, Sr. ;
26 seven brothers, Arthur James Penn, Robert Lewis Penn, Sr.,
27 George Penn, James Penn, Sr., Jim Penn, Jr., Roosevelt Penn,

1 and Willie Lee Penn, Sr.; four sisters, Alberta Collins, Annie
2 Lee Sullivan, Mary Ethel Moore, and Bertha Bates Slaughter; a
3 loving stepfather, Reverend Frank Thomas, Sr.; two
4 stepbrothers, Bishop Frank Thomas, Jr., and Roy Thomas; and
5 two stepsisters, Carrie Mae Jackson and Minister Ethel Mae
6 Burks; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Cowan was a valued member of the
8 community; although her presence is greatly missed, her memory
9 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were
10 fortunate enough to know her; now therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
12 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
13 Joyce Penn Cowan, we are extremely grateful for her abundant
14 life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute to her
15 inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to her
16 family and friends.