

1 HR221
2 117688-1
3 By Representative Jackson
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 04-FEB-10

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MRS. EDITH ARMSTEAD GRAY.

9
10 WHEREAS, we note with deep regret the passing of
11 Mrs. Edith Armstead Gray of Evergreen at the age of 99 years;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray, a native of Galveston, Texas,
14 graduated from Tuskegee Institute with a B. S. degree; she
15 toured for six weeks in 1932 with the Tuskegee Institute
16 Choir, performing at the White House and Radio City Music
17 Hall; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray began her career as an educator
19 in Conecuh County in 1934; she taught for 42 years at the
20 Conecuh County Training School, later renamed Thurgood
21 Marshall High School; and

22 WHEREAS, active in civic and political affairs, Mrs.
23 Gray was known by some as the "Mother of Conecuh County"; she
24 was a charter and life member of the Conecuh County Branch of
25 the NAACP and founding member of the Neoteric Club; Mrs. Gray
26 registered hundreds of new voters and was active in escorting
27 voters to the polls on election days; and

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray was baptized at an early age and
2 remained a committed Christian throughout her life; she was a
3 devoted member of Mt. Zion AME Zion Church, where she taught
4 Sunday School for over 30 years; and

5 WHEREAS, known to all as a trailblazer, Mrs. Gray
6 was the first female ever appointed to the Evergreen Housing
7 Authority Board and became the first African American citizen
8 in Conecuh County to have a major public building named in her
9 honor in 2005, with the dedication of the Edith A. Gray
10 Library and Technology Center at Reid State Technical College;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray was preceded in death by her
13 husband, Mr. Philander A. Gray; parents, Henry and Millie
14 Williams Armstead; and siblings, Otis, Alma, Eula, Henry Jr.,
15 Amy, Marian, and Mildred; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray is survived by her sons,
17 Frederick (Barbara) and Jerome; daughter, Phyllis Linda
18 (Morgan); grandchildren, Phyllis Maria Gray-Butts, Morgan
19 Jerome Hallmon, and Bradford Hallmon; great-grandchildren,
20 Bree Gray-Jordan, Jai Butts, and Zoe Butts; nieces, Edith
21 Odell Evans, Renee Armstead, and Jean Gray-Harvey; nephews,
22 John Hilliard, William Joseph Gray, and Jeffrey Mays;
23 sister-in-law, Hilda Gray Massey; and numerous other friends
24 and relatives; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray's passing is a great loss to her
26 family and members of the community who will remember her as a
27 lady who embraced what life had to offer and returned the best

1 of herself; the memory of her abundant and inspiring life will
2 be treasured in the hearts and minds of many; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That with appreciation and
5 gratitude, the life of Mrs. Edith Armstead Gray is honored in
6 this special tribute, and by copy of this resolution, deepest
7 condolences are extended to her family.