

1 HR237  
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3 By Representative Givan  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 07-APR-16

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7  
8 HONORING ELLA BERTHA JOSEPH BOWMAN JONES ON HER  
9 INCREDIBLE LEGACY AS A MUSICIAN.

10  
11 WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate to recognize  
12 outstanding individuals who are having an indelible impact on  
13 society through the arts; and

14 WHEREAS, Ella Bertha Joseph Bowman Jones is one such  
15 remarkable individual whose singing talent has been a  
16 tremendous source of credit to the great State of Alabama; and

17 WHEREAS, at 92 years old, Mrs. Jones provides  
18 exceptional direction as the Minister of Music and beautifully  
19 plays the organ for her Savior at First Baptist Church  
20 Graymont; and

21 WHEREAS, notably, Mrs. Jones has the distinction of  
22 being in the music ministry for over 80 years; she began  
23 playing for First Baptist Church of Graymont Sunday School at  
24 an early age and began playing for the church choir at age 12;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones has served as a musician for Mt.  
27 Pilgrim District Association in Birmingham, Alabama, for over

1 50 years, as music instructor for the Solomon Christian  
2 Bookstore Vacation Bible School Workshop for over 40 years,  
3 and served as a member of the Gospel Music Workshop of America  
4 for over 40 years; and

5 WHEREAS, she has garnered numerous accolades over  
6 the years including 2011 recognition of Commitment Award  
7 honoring her dedication to the District Congress of the Mt.  
8 Pilgrim Baptist District Association; a 2006 "A Celebration of  
9 Love," a celebration encompassing honors and awards bestowed  
10 by First Baptist Church Graymont and area churches; the 2005  
11 Mt. Pilgrim Baptist District Association Music Award; the 1999  
12 Outstanding Community Service Through Music bestowed by the  
13 Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Birmingham Metropolitan  
14 Chapter; selection for the 1996 Woman of the Year-Outstanding  
15 Community Service Award, an honor presented by the Alabama A  
16 and M University Detroit, Michigan Renaissance Alumni Chapter;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones cultivated a prominent career as  
19 an educator during which time she served as an Adjunct  
20 Professor for Simmons Baptist Bible College/Indianapolis  
21 Extension and was employed with Birmingham City Schools and  
22 Montevallo High School in Montevallo, Alabama; she also  
23 cultivated a remarkable career as a business executive and  
24 served as Vice President of BOMAC Exterminating Co., Inc. and  
25 as a Bowman's Groceteria entrepreneur; and

26 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones' lengthy community involvement  
27 includes establishing a scholarship fund at Birmingham

1 Easonian Baptist Bible College in honor of her pastor father,  
2 Dr. R. M. Joseph, serving as musician for the benevolent  
3 Stockham YMCA Choral Group, and sponsoring City Stages Jazz  
4 Camp Scholarships for First Baptist Church Graymont Youth  
5 Mentor/Music Teacher, Young Musical Geniuses of Birmingham,  
6 and First Baptist Church Graymont Youth; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones was a member of the National  
8 Education Association, American Education Association, and  
9 NAACP Gospel Music Workshop of America; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones was born January 27, 1924, in  
11 Birmingham, Alabama, to the union of the Reverend Dr. Remause  
12 Manly Joseph and Mrs. Nancy Ann Joseph; she was married to  
13 Joseph Henry Bowman, Jr., and Frank Robert Jones, both of whom  
14 are deceased, and she has been blessed with three children,  
15 Joseph Henry Bowman, III (deceased), Patricia Bowman Billups,  
16 and Deidra Jones Harris; and

17 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones was a piano accompanist for the  
18 famed choir at A.H. Parker High School, where she graduated as  
19 the Valedictorian at the age of 16 in 1940; she earned her  
20 Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Alabama A and M  
21 University and her Master's of Science Degree in Education  
22 from Alabama State University, and she pursued further studies  
23 in counseling at The University of Alabama at Birmingham; and

24 WHEREAS, through the years, Mrs. Jones has earned  
25 widespread credit for her tireless dedication and exceptional  
26 abilities, and she is truly deserving of special recognition;  
27 now therefore,

1                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
2           THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Ella Bertha Joseph Bowman  
3           Jones is highly honored and commended, and this resolution is  
4           offered to her in deepest admiration and appreciation, along  
5           with sincere best wishes for continued blessings.