

1 HR353  
2 177626-1  
3 By Representatives Knight, McClammy and Holmes (A)  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 27-APR-16

6

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 COMMENDING MR. CHARLES VARNER, JR., FOR OUTSTANDING  
9 PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

10  
11 WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Varner, Jr., a Montgomery  
12 native, received his primary and secondary education in  
13 Montgomery, Alabama; he received a Bachelor of Science Degree  
14 in Education and History in 1958 from Alabama State University  
15 and conducted additional study at various other institutions  
16 and at conferences and workshops; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Varner, Jr., has made  
18 significant contributions as an educator, researcher,  
19 community and civil rights activist, Alabama State University  
20 employee, and research consultant for the National Center for  
21 the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Varner, Jr., has served Alabama  
23 State University in various capacities as a distinguished  
24 alumnus including Director of Alumni Relations and Planned  
25 Giving, Campus Coordinator for the Presidential Search  
26 Committee, Vice President for Development and Public

1 Relations, Legislative Liaison for ASU, and Executive Director  
2 for the Alabama League for Advancement of Education; and

3 WHEREAS, between 1959 and 1971, Mr. Charles Varner  
4 served as a public school instructor in the Talladega City  
5 School System; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Varner received awards and certificates  
7 for outstanding local, state, and national civil and  
8 educational endeavors between 1973 and 1977 including a  
9 certificate from Sanford University's Police-Community  
10 Relations Institute, from the Long-Range Planning Manager's  
11 Institute of the Phelps-Stokes Fund in Washington, D.C., and  
12 from the Thirteen Colleges Curriculum Program; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Varner achieved prominence as a  
14 community activist between 1971 and 1996 by organizing  
15 community-based groups to advocate for the integration of  
16 public schools, the Montgomery City Planning Commission, and  
17 the United Way Planning Committee; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Varner, Jr., has served as  
19 Special Project Research Associate for the National Center for  
20 the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at  
21 Alabama State University from 2001 to the present; and

22 WHEREAS, in his capacity as Special Project Research  
23 Associate for 15 years, Mr. Varner has played a major role in  
24 the fulfillment of one of the central missions of the National  
25 Center to investigate, record, and preserve information  
26 regarding the struggle for blacks for their constitutional  
27 rights, the history of African-Americans in Montgomery, the

1 history of black education in Alabama, and of Alabama State  
2 University's role in the civil rights movement; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Varner established and used the E.D.  
4 Nixon Institute for Research and Cultural Enrichment for the  
5 purpose of honoring the contributions of Nixon as the most  
6 important civil rights activist in Montgomery before the  
7 arrival of Martin Luther, King, Jr., as well as for producing  
8 original research on topics of significant importance to the  
9 overall history of blacks in Montgomery and Alabama and the  
10 civil rights movement; and

11 WHEREAS, the research carried out by Mr. Varner in  
12 the E.D. Nixon Institute for Research and Cultural Enrichment  
13 has brought to the National Center and to the Montgomery  
14 Community individuals who served as participants,  
15 eyewitnesses, and contemporaries of events and episodes which  
16 have impacted the African-America experience locally, as well  
17 as on the state and national level; and

18 WHEREAS, the research presented at the E.D. Nixon  
19 programs has analyzed topics, including the life and  
20 contributions of E.D. Nixon to the civil rights movement,  
21 which was the inaugural E.D. Nixon Institute for Research and  
22 Cultural Enrichment event; the Montgomery Bus Boycott car  
23 pool, the role of Thelma Glass and the Women's Political  
24 Council (WPC) in the founding of the WPC, the pioneering black  
25 bus drivers of Montgomery, the negative impact of Interstate  
26 Highway Systems on black neighborhoods, with special  
27 implications for Montgomery's Westside neighborhoods, a series

1 of programs on Montgomery's black communities, including  
2 Madison Park and Mobile Heights; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Mr. Charles Varner, Jr., be  
5 forever recognized for his long and dedicated service to  
6 researching and preserving African-American history and the  
7 history of the civil rights movement as it took place in the  
8 State of Alabama.