

1 HR418
2 119030-1
3 By Representatives Laird, Bridges, Allen, Baker (A), Baker
4 (L), Ball, Bandy, Barton, Beasley, Beech, Bentley, Black,
5 Boothe, Boyd, Brown, Buskey, Canfield, Clouse, Coleman,
6 Collier, Curtis, Davis, DeMarco, Drake, Dukes, England, Faust,
7 Fields, Fincher, Ford, Galliher, Gaston, Gipson, Gordon,
8 Graham, Grantland, Greeson, Grimes, Guin, Hall, Hammett,
9 Hammon, Harper, Hill, Hilliard, Hinshaw, Holmes, Howard,
10 Hubbard, Hurst, Irons, Ison, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy,
11 Knight, Letson, Lewis, Lindsey, Love, Martin, Mask, McAdory,
12 McCampbell, McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin, McCutcheon,
13 McDaniel, McLaughlin, McMillan, Millican, Mitchell, Moore (M),
14 Moore (P), Morrow, Newton (C), Newton (D), Oden, Page, Payne,
15 Robinson (J), Robinson (O), Rogers, Salaam, Sanderford, Scott,
16 Sherer, Shiver, Spicer, Taylor, Thigpen, Thomas (E), Thomas
17 (J), Todd, Treadaway, Vance, Ward, Warren, White, Williams
18 (J), Williams (P), Wood and Wren
19 RFD:
20 First Read: 25-FEB-10

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8 RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LATE JOE LOUIS.

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10 WHEREAS, Joseph Louis Barrow, better known as "Joe
11 Louis," was born to Munroe and Lillie Barrow on May 13, 1914,
12 in a shack at the foot of Buckalew Mountain near LaFayette,
13 Alabama; Munroe Barrow was a sharecropper who died prematurely
14 and left Mrs. Barrow to rear their children; she would later
15 marry Patrick Brooks, joining their respective families of
16 eight; and

17 WHEREAS, the family relocated to Detroit, Michigan,
18 when Joe Louis was 13 years of age; he took up the sport of
19 boxing during his teenage years and became known as "Joe
20 Louis" when he omitted his surname from a registration form
21 for an amateur fight; Mr. Louis posted a 50-4 record as an
22 amateur boxer, winning the National Amateur Athletic Union
23 light-heavyweight championship in 1934; and

24 WHEREAS, turning professional in 1934, Joe Louis won
25 his first 27 fights, 23 of those by knockout; his first defeat
26 occurred on June 19, 1936, in a 12th-round knockout by
27 legendary German boxer Max Schmeling; despite the fact that

1 Joe Louis won the heavyweight title in 1937, this loss would
2 haunt him for years; and

3 WHEREAS, the rivalry between Joe Louis and Max
4 Schmeling came to symbolize the growing tensions between Nazi
5 Germany and the United States, to the point that Adolph Hitler
6 openly considered a planned rematch an opportunity to prove
7 the superiority of the Aryan race, exemplified in Hitler's
8 mind by Schmeling, to persons of color, as Joe Louis was
9 African-American; and

10 WHEREAS, on July 22, 1938, Joe Louis knocked out
11 Schmeling just two minutes and four seconds into the fight,
12 striking a blow not just for his legend as a sports hero, but
13 for the morale of Americans of every color; like many
14 professional athletes of his time, Joe Louis interrupted his
15 boxing career to serve in the United States Army during World
16 War II; during his service, he continued to participate in
17 boxing exhibitions; Joe Louis' celebrity was widely regarded
18 as advancing the cause of desegregation in the military and he
19 used his status to help future baseball pioneer Jackie
20 Robinson and other African-American soldiers gain admission to
21 Officer Candidate School; and

22 WHEREAS, Joe Louis died on April 12, 1981, at the
23 age of 66 years; President Ronald Reagan waived the
24 requirements for burial in Arlington National Cemetery,
25 allowing him to be buried there with full military honors; and

1 WHEREAS, Joe Louis was a legitimate national
2 treasure; Alabama is proud to call him "native son"; now
3 therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
5 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize the
6 remarkable achievements of the late, legendary Joe Louis and
7 that a copy of this resolution will be provided to the Mayor
8 of LaFayette as a memento of this special recognition.