

1 HR80
2 156901-1
3 By Representatives Scott, Robinson (O), Baker, Ball, Bandy,
4 Baughn, Beckman, Beech, Black, Boman, Boothe, Boyd, Bracy,
5 Bridges, Brown, Burdine, Buskey, Butler, Buttram, Carns,
6 Chesteen, Clarke, Clouse, Coleman-Evans, Collins, Colston,
7 Davis, DeMarco, Drake, England, Farley, Faust, Fincher, Ford,
8 Forte, Gaston, Givan, Greer, Greenson, Grimsley, Hall, Hammon,
9 Harper, Henry, Hill, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard (J), Hubbard (M),
10 Hurst, Ison, Jackson, Johnson (K), Johnson (R), Johnson (W),
11 Jones, Knight, Laird, Lee, Lindsey, Long, McAdory, McCampbell,
12 McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin, McCutcheon, McMillan, Melton,
13 Merrill, Millican, Mitchell, Moore (B), Moore (M), Morrow,
14 Newton, Nordgren, Patterson, Payne, Polizos, Poole, Rich,
15 Roberts, Robinson (J), Rogers, Sanderford, Sessions, Shedd,
16 Shiver, Standridge, Todd, Treadaway, Tuggle, Vance, Wallace,
17 Warren, Weaver, Williams (D), Williams (J), Williams (P), Wood
18 and Wren
19 RFD:
20 First Read: 22-JAN-14

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE STATE
9 REPRESENTATIVE DEMETRIUS NEWTON.

10
11 WHEREAS, our beloved and respected colleague
12 Demetrius Newton departed this life on September 11, 2013, at
13 the age of 85 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Newton was born and educated
15 in Fairfield, Alabama and, after being denied consideration by
16 the University of Alabama, obtained his legal education at
17 Boston University, where he was the first African-American
18 member of Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity; and

19 WHEREAS, he had extensive experience in every level
20 of the legal system from probate to complex civil and criminal
21 cases; he successfully fought unpopular battles against
22 discrimination and for equal rights in matters involving
23 education, employment, and travel; he filed the first action
24 in the United States under Title VII, Civil Rights Act of
25 1964; and was the first attorney involved in an action
26 challenging segregated waiting areas for train passengers; and

1 WHEREAS, first elected to the Alabama House of
2 Representatives in 1986, he became the first African-American
3 to chair the Judiciary Committee, the first African-American
4 elected Speaker Pro Tempore, and the first person to serve in
5 the position of Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus of the Alabama
6 House of Representatives; and

7 WHEREAS, dedicated to fighting on behalf of his
8 constituents, his numerous legislative accomplishments
9 reflected his unwavering commitment to justice, voting rights,
10 and equality of opportunity, and his spiritual, altruistic,
11 and educational contributions are unparalleled; and

12 WHEREAS, his honors and awards include the Alabama
13 Lawyers Association Award for Outstanding Lawyer and Pioneer;
14 the American Cancer Society's Outstanding Legislator Award; an
15 Honorary Doctor of Letters from Wilberforce University, his
16 undergraduate alma mater; serving as national president of the
17 alumni association for Wilberforce; being listed in Ebony
18 magazine's list of the 100 Most Influential Blacks in America;
19 and being included in Who's Who in Black America, Who's Who in
20 American Law, and the International Dictionary of Biographies;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, survivors include a daughter, Deirdre, who
23 practices law in New York, and a son, Demetrius, Jr., a
24 videographer with the Birmingham Board of Education; and

25 WHEREAS, he impacted countless lives through the
26 years and his far-reaching contributions are immeasurable;

1 although his vibrant presence will be greatly missed, his
2 legacy will endure; now therefore

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of the Honorable
5 State Representative Demetrius Newton is recorded with deep
6 sadness, and this resolution is offered in highest tribute to
7 his life, along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose
8 grief is shared by many.