

1 HJR77
2 136911-1
3 By Representatives Buskey, Warren, Baker, Ball, Bandy, Barton,
4 Baughn, Beckman, Beech, Black, Boman, Boothe, Boyd, Bracy,
5 Bridges, Brown, Burdine, Buttram, Carns, Chesteen, Clouse,
6 Coleman, Collins, Colston, Davis, DeMarco, Drake, England,
7 Farley, Faust, Fincher, Ford, Forte, Galliher, Gaston, Givan,
8 Greer, Greeson, Grimsley, Hall, Hammon, Harper, Henry, Hill,
9 Holmes, Howard, Hubbard (J), Hubbard (M), Hurst, Ison,
10 Jackson, Johnson (K), Johnson (R), Johnson (W), Jones,
11 Kennedy, Knight, Laird, Lee, Lindsey, Long, Love, Mask,
12 McAdory, McCampbell, McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin,
13 McCutcheon, McMillan, Melton, Merrill, Millican, Mitchell,
14 Moore (B), Moore (M), Morrow, Newton (C), Newton (D),
15 Nordgren, Oden, Patterson, Payne, Poole, Rich, Roberts,
16 Robinson (J), Robinson (O), Rogers, Sanderford, Scott,
17 Sessions, Shiver, Thomas, Todd, Treadaway, Tuggle, Vance,
18 Wallace, Weaver, Williams (D), Williams (J), Williams (P),
19 Wood and Wren
20 RFD: Rules
21 First Read: 14-FEB-12

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. W.L. STRAIN AS A GREAT
9 ADVOCATE FOR SICKLE CELL ORGANIZATIONS.

10
11 WHEREAS, with deep sadness for his death but in
12 admiration and appreciation of his life, we record the passing
13 of Mr. W. L. Strain of Tuskegee, Alabama, on September 14,
14 2011, at the age of 81 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Strain was revered as an icon in the
16 battle against Sickle Cell Disease and a champion in the arena
17 of equal rights; and

18 WHEREAS, born on April 16, 1930, in Decatur,
19 Alabama, he became a devout Christian at an early age and
20 joined Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church after moving to
21 Tuskegee; and

22 WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in
23 1954 in Agriculture Science and a Master of Science Degree in
24 Agriculture Education, both from Tuskegee Institute; he then
25 served his country with honor and distinction, commissioned as
26 a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, prior to

1 receiving a terminal degree in Agriculture Journalism from the
2 University of Wisconsin; and

3 WHEREAS, always an exceptional student, Mr. Strain
4 worked very hard to overcome challenging circumstances in
5 order to reach his desired goals; he was noted for his
6 perseverance and tenacity in working to achieve equality for
7 African-Americans, women, and other minorities, including
8 those who faced discriminatory practices in the Alabama
9 Cooperative Extension System, where he was instrumental in
10 creating unprecedented opportunities for minorities and later
11 became Assistant Director and Head of the Cooperative
12 Extension Services Information Services Unit and also an
13 Associate Professor in the Journalism Department at Auburn
14 University; he retired in 1995 with the rank of Professor
15 Emeritus in two Colleges of Auburn University and remained
16 very active in effective service to his profession and the
17 community; and

18 WHEREAS, he was a dedicated and active member of
19 numerous professional organizations and civil rights groups,
20 including being a founder of the Auburn Black Caucus, which
21 awarded its first W. L. Strain Award in 1995; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Strain was especially active in the
23 advocacy of Sickle Cell treatment and research organizations,
24 serving as president of the Board of Directors of the
25 Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Association during the mid
26 1980s; in his capacity as president, he began working with the
27 members of the Alabama Legislative Black Caucus and the

1 various committee chairs in behalf of additional funding for
2 Sickle Cell and became the contact person for the Sickle Cell
3 Chapters in Alabama, working with Representative James E.
4 Buskey and Senator Hank Sanders along with others on many
5 occasions during Budget Hearings by the Legislature as well as
6 during the legislative session, and effectively monitoring the
7 entire funding process for Sickle Cell until the budgets were
8 signed by the Governor; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Strain worked with the Sunset Committee
10 of the Alabama Legislature to help create the Sickle Cell
11 Oversight and Regulatory Commission, which was enacted in 1996
12 by Act 96-727, and funding to this Commission was \$1,304,771
13 in 2011; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Strain's legacy as a great advocate for
15 Sickle Cell Organizations will endure far into the future; now
16 therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. W.L. Strain
19 is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered
20 in highest tribute to his life, along with heartfelt sympathy
21 to his family, whose grief we share.