

1 HR177
2 137707-1
3 By Representative Warren
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 23-FEB-12

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIE MITCHELL BURNETT.
9

10 WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we receive
11 news of the death of Mr. Willie Mitchell Burnett on February
12 12, 2012, at the age of 70 years; and

13 WHEREAS, the passing of Mr. Willie Mitchell Burnett
14 leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, his many
15 friends, and the entire community, where he was highly
16 regarded; and

17 WHEREAS, born January 28, 1942, in Dozier, Alabama,
18 he was the son of Newman P. and Della Mitchell Burnett; as an
19 infant, his mother died and his aunt, Berthine McTier, cared
20 for him; he was educated in the Crenshaw County school system,
21 graduating with honors from Crenshaw County Training School in
22 1960; for a year, he was employed with Louis' Restaurant in
23 Niagara Falls, New York; he was accepted to Morehouse College,
24 but attended Tuskegee University on the Opportunity
25 Scholarship Plan; assigned to the Office of University
26 Advancement, he worked in Alumni Affairs; he earned bachelor's
27 and master's degrees from Tuskegee University; and

1 WHEREAS, with much hard work and devotion, he
2 contributed his time during all 43 years of his professional
3 life to Tuskegee University; he served as Office Manager for
4 the Chapel Memorial Gifts Program, and as Assistant,
5 Associate, Acting, and Interim Director of Alumni Affairs; he
6 also served as Director of the Annual Fund/Planned Giving and
7 achieved his long time goal of becoming Director of Alumni
8 Affairs; he was a member of the Eminent Presidential/1000 Plus
9 Associates at the Distinguished Life Level as well; and

10 WHEREAS, with utmost dedication, he gave his time to
11 Tuskegee University National Athletic Association, Tuskegee
12 Athletic Hall of Fame, Honda Campus All Star Challenge Team
13 Advisory Committee, "Miss Tuskegee University" Advisory
14 Committee, Convocations Committee, Parents' Day Planning
15 Committee, "Parent(s) of the Year" Selection Committee;
16 Chairman, Resolutions Committee, Southern Association of
17 Colleges and Schools Accreditation, Pre-Alumni Council, and
18 United Negro College Fund National Alumni Council; and

19 WHEREAS, involved in the community, he served on the
20 Macon County E-911 Board, Macon County Personnel Board, Deputy
21 Registrar-Macon County, the Carver Festival Committee, in the
22 Tuskegee Civic Association as a Life Member, Greenwood
23 Cemetery Association, as a two-term President of the Tuskegee
24 Optimist Club, and as a member of Saint Andrew's Episcopal
25 Church, where he gave his time on the Vestry and as a greeter
26 and usher; and

1 WHEREAS, a licensed Funeral Director and Notary
2 Public, he belonged to the Board of Certified Counselors,
3 American Education Association, American Counseling
4 Association, American College Personnel Association; District
5 Seven, Alabama Counseling Association, Council of Advancement
6 and Support Education (CASE); the Southeast Alabama Funeral
7 Directors and Morticians Association; Alpha Phi Alpha
8 Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Nu Lambda Chapter, Life Member and
9 Secretary; Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, Inc.,
10 Pi Zeta Chapter Advisor and Life Member; the Masonic Order;
11 and several societies; and

12 WHEREAS, he received several awards for his
13 extraordinary service which include the Alumni Merit Award and
14 Diligent Son Award, National Alumni Association; Staff Member
15 of the Year, Tuskegee University; Legion of Honor, Life
16 Membership and Honorary Past Imperial Potentates degree, Super
17 Recorder of the Year (Imperial Council and Desert of Alabama),
18 and induction into the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame as
19 a lifetime member for outstanding service rendered to senior
20 citizens; and

21 WHEREAS, he enthusiastically counseled youth,
22 assisted those in need, and responded to the needs and
23 requests of alumni; cooking and entertaining gave him great
24 joy; with much love and gratitude in his heart, he hosted a
25 special gathering of seniors on Mother's Day every year for
26 which he prepared his special dishes; he embraced ladies at
27 the much anticipated event as his "mothers;" he also served

1 meals at Thanksgiving, Tuskegee University's Homecoming, and
2 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; and

3 WHEREAS, survivors include a devoted sister, Mamie
4 Burnett (Vester L.) Burnette; two nephews, Theron (Debbie)
5 Burnette, Andre' (Amia) Burnette, and several other relatives,
6 cousins, godchildren, and many friends; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Burnett was a valued member of the
8 community; although his presence will be greatly missed, his
9 memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who
10 were fortunate to know him; now therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
12 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. Willie
13 Mitchell Burnett is recorded with deep sadness, and this
14 resolution is offered in highest tribute to his life, along
15 with heartfelt sympathy to his grieving family.