

1 HR179  
2 137176-1  
3 By Representative DeMarco  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 23-FEB-12

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF JACK JOSEPH MONTE.

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10 WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we receive  
11 news of the death of Mr. Jack Joseph "Jake" Monte of Homewood,  
12 Alabama, on February 11, 2012 at the age of 98 years; and

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

16 WHEREAS, he was born February 16, 1913, in Cardiff,  
17 Alabama; he graduated from Phillips High School and became a  
18 renowned shortstop in the Italian baseball league; a prize  
19 fighter, he trained and managed Golden Glove boxers in and  
20 around the state in the 1930's; inducted into the Army on  
21 April 24, 1943, he was chosen for the joint US-Canadian Force,  
22 the 1st Special Service Force (FSSF) or Black Devils; led by  
23 World War II's most decorated general, General Robert  
24 Frederick, he served as a Heavy Machine and Anti-Tank Gunner,  
25 a Military Policeman, and as an Italian Interpreter; fighting  
26 in the European Theatre, he engaged in battles and campaigns  
27 in North Africa, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Rhineland, Southern

1 France/Central Europe (Monte la Difensa) and Norway; he fought  
2 along Mussolini Canal; he was among the first Allied soldiers  
3 to enter Rome; and

4 WHEREAS, he received the European/African/Middle  
5 Eastern Service Medal with 1 Silver Star, Combat Infantry  
6 Badge, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, many stars, citations,  
7 and a declaration of thanks from the King of Norway; the FSSF  
8 plaque in Rome honors his unit; on August 1, 1984, Senator  
9 Richard Shelby honored him in the U.S. Congressional Record;  
10 he received the Canadian Parachute Wings with Silver Maple  
11 Leaf (for Valor) from the government of Ottawa, Canada, for  
12 his service in the FSSF; and

13 WHEREAS, after the war, he returned to his bread  
14 delivery business; he was also a home delivery milkman for  
15 White Dairy Milk Company; he belonged to the American Legion  
16 and VFW; he was also a founding member of the Knights of  
17 Columbus Council 4304 and 4th Degree Knight at Our Lady of  
18 Sorrows Catholic Church; with much dedication, he gave his  
19 time as a volunteer to the KC; he was the oldest usher and  
20 volunteer for the 4th of July Festival; and

21 WHEREAS, with much zest and passion, Mr. Monte lived  
22 a beautiful life; a family man and loyal friend, he was a  
23 source of inspiration to his loved ones; with much devotion,  
24 he stood firm in his faith; he had a fun-loving spirit and  
25 enjoyed sharing his wisdom, life-lessons, splendid stories,  
26 humorous sayings, and songs as well as relating his TV viewing  
27 selections through daily phone calls; he and his adored wife,

1 Margaret Ragusa Monte, who celebrated their 71st wedding  
2 anniversary on January 30, 2012, shared a special, abounding  
3 love and their magnificent story as a couple was featured in a  
4 hometown paper for Valentine's Day; and

5 WHEREAS, survivors include his beloved and devoted  
6 wife of 71 years, Margaret Ragusa Monte; three daughters,  
7 Concetta M. Thomas, Josephine (Andrew C.) M. Dillion, III, and  
8 Marguerite M. McNamee; one son, Dominic (Joan) Joseph Monte,  
9 10 grandchildren, Pamela (Robert) Thomas Smith, Christa (Bert)  
10 Thomas Salter, William H. Thomas, V, Aundrea (Brad) Dillion  
11 Reidenauer, Dr. Jacqueline (Representative Paul) Dillion  
12 DeMarco, Margaret Monte Dillion, Jennifer Shay McNamee,  
13 Patrick (Shannon) M. McNamee, Jr., Matthew J. Monte, and  
14 Daniel C. Monte; seven great-grandchildren, Rachel A. Salter,  
15 Madison L. Salter, Benton H. Salter, Noah H.R. Smith, Natalie  
16 E. Smith, Dillion Joyce Reidenauer, and Ryleigh Monte  
17 Reidenauer; special nephew, C.D. "Junior" (Lois) Monte;  
18 special niece, Frances Diliberto; two sisters-in-law, Cecilia  
19 Ragusa and Carol Ragusa; and numerous nephews, nieces, and  
20 friends; he was preceded in death by his Italian immigrant  
21 parents, Concetta and Dominick Monte; his brother, Joe Monte;  
22 two sisters, Vance Manganaro and Bannie Palilla; and two  
23 sons-in-law, William Houston Thomas, IV, and Patrick Miles  
24 McNamee, Sr; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Monte was a valued member of the  
26 community; although his presence will be greatly missed, his

1 memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who  
2 were fortunate to know him; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. Jack Joseph  
5 "Jake" Monte is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
6 resolution is offered in highest tribute to his life, along  
7 with heartfelt sympathy to his grieving family.