

1 HR113  
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3 By Representative Knight  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 28-FEB-13

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MRS. FLORENCE CATLEDGE.  
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10 WHEREAS, it is with an overwhelming sense of loss  
11 that we mourn the death of Mrs. Florence Catledge of  
12 Montgomery, Alabama, on February 23, 2013, at the age of 71  
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, born on July 2, 1941, she was the second of  
15 ten children born to Reverend Willie and Katie Lee Brown; she  
16 was baptized in 1957 at Mount Gillard Missionary Baptist  
17 Church, where she served in many capacities, and later was a  
18 faithful servant and church leader in Cleveland, Ohio, where  
19 she dedicated a distinguished 33-year career to educating  
20 at-risk youth in the Cleveland Public School System and was  
21 credited with significant accomplishments during her tenure as  
22 Administrator/Principal; and

23 WHEREAS, her academic credentials included a  
24 Bachelor of Science Degree from Alabama State University and  
25 Master's Degree in Education from Cleveland State University,  
26 followed by postgraduate studies; and

1           WHEREAS, after returning to Montgomery, she  
2           organized the Christian Education Department at South Decatur  
3           Street Baptist Church and subsequently served the Bethel  
4           Missionary Baptist Church; and

5           WHEREAS, among her achievements in Alabama, she  
6           provided expertise and was actively involved with Auburn  
7           University in numerous programs such as Leadership, Community  
8           Resource Development, Effective Black Parenting, and many  
9           other initiatives affecting families, especially at-risk  
10          children; and

11          WHEREAS, in 2003, she and her husband established  
12          the New Beginnings Educational Center, a nonprofit  
13          organization to which they devoted their hearts and resources,  
14          recruiting volunteers, mentors, and sponsors in the quest to  
15          improve the lives of youth; they engendered an After School  
16          Tutorial Program, helped numerous adults receive their GED,  
17          sponsored nutritional Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket  
18          Programs, answered children's dreams through the Christmas Toy  
19          Giveaway, and provided food and other necessities to  
20          impoverished residents throughout the year; in addition, Life  
21          Skill courses were designed to enhance Character Education,  
22          Critical Thinking, and Organizational Skills, as well as  
23          Summer Camps for Grades K-8, focusing on reading, mathematics,  
24          science, character education, and social skills instruction;  
25          and

1           WHEREAS, she leaves to cherish her memory her  
2 devoted husband, Joe Catledge, Jr.; daughters, Tekla V.  
3 Williams, Zina P. (Marvin) Wiggins, and Michelle V. Crawford;  
4 son, Kenneth L. Williams; grandson, Devon Williams; brothers,  
5 Allen (Mary) Brown and Joel (Juanita) Brown; sisters, Rosetta  
6 (Marion) Brock, Tommy (Johnny) Hardwick, Diane (David) Smith,  
7 Waloka Brown, Cashada Brown, SeKeena Evans, and Ketia  
8 (Michael) Martin; uncles, Reverend Allen Brown, Bennie Brown,  
9 and Reverend Henry Brown; aunt, Irene Wiley; devoted cousin,  
10 Nancy Bibbins; and a host of other relatives and friends; and

11           WHEREAS, Mrs. Catledge truly made a difference,  
12 impacting countless lives with her exceptional skills and  
13 generosity; although her presence will be greatly missed, her  
14 legacy will endure; now therefore,

15           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
16 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mrs. Florence  
17 Catledge is recorded with deep sadness, and this certificate  
18 is offered in highest tribute to her life along with heartfelt  
19 sympathy to her family, whose grief is shared by many.