

1 HR115  
2 157760-1  
3 By Representative Melton  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 04-FEB-14

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7  
8 COMMENDING R.B. HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL IN SELMA,  
9 ALABAMA, FOR ITS VITAL ROLE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

10  
11 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that R.B.  
12 Hudson High School in Selma, Alabama, is recognized for its  
13 pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s; and

14 WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the  
15 events of the years leading up to it have long been known to  
16 most Americans, but few until recently were aware of how the  
17 Voter Registration movement began to gain momentum; and

18 WHEREAS, it began in 1963, with students of R.B.  
19 Hudson High School, when 13- to 18-year-olds took to the  
20 streets against the counsel of parents, elders, and teachers,  
21 because of the dangers involved; only after the students  
22 braved the threats, arrests, and abuse by the White Citizens  
23 Council did the Black adults also begin to march; only after  
24 these 5,000 young idealists first put themselves on the line  
25 was the invitation extended to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to  
26 add his profound leadership; and

1           WHEREAS, on February 27, 2014, all races in Alabama  
2 will commemorate what these students did by the dedication of  
3 a state-sponsored plaque honoring the pivotal actions of R.B.  
4 Hudson High School students from 1963 to 1965; and

5           WHEREAS, under the leadership of retired Fire Chief  
6 Henry E. Allen, alumni of R.B. Hudson successfully moved to  
7 place their school on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and  
8 Heritage, thereby reaping full recognition of their historic  
9 achievement; and

10           WHEREAS, the Plaque reads in part: "From 1963 to  
11 1965, students from R.B. Hudson High School and surrounding  
12 county schools played a vital role in the passage of the Civil  
13 Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These  
14 students actively participated in Civil Rights marches and  
15 demonstrations that led to the advancement and passage of  
16 Civil Rights legislation."; and

17           WHEREAS, event participants will commence activities  
18 on the school grounds at 5:00 p.m., February 27, 2014, at R.B.  
19 Hudson Middle School, 1702 Summerfield Road, Selma, Alabama;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, dedication of the plaque promises to be a  
22 milestone in Selma and Civil Rights history, with extensive  
23 local and national coverage; now therefore,

24           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That it is a privilege to honor  
26 and commend R.B. Hudson High School and its significant role  
27 in the Civil Rights Movement, and this resolution is offered

1 for appropriate display with heartiest congratulations on  
2 receiving well-deserved recognition in the Alabama Register of  
3 Landmarks and Heritage, along with heartfelt gratitude to the  
4 young students who led the way with their inspirational  
5 courage more than four decades ago.