

1 HR101  
2 167144-1  
3 By Representatives Givan, Rogers, Moore (M) and Scott  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 07-APR-15

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8 CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF EVELYN STARKS HARDY, FOUNDER  
9 OF THE ORIGINAL GOSPEL HARMONETTES.

10  
11 WHEREAS, with utmost respect, we celebrate and  
12 commend the life of Evelyn Starks Hardy, founder of the  
13 Original Gospel Harmonettes, whose passing at age 92 leaves a  
14 void in the lives of her loving family and friends and the  
15 many who were uplifted by her music and noble life's calling;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hardy was born in Birmingham on  
18 December 15, 1922, to the union of William Starks and the  
19 former Idell Golson; and

20 WHEREAS, at the early age of seven, she learned to  
21 play piano; in 1940, she received an invitation to play piano  
22 for the National Baptist Convention Choir in Birmingham; and

23 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hardy graduated from Miles College and  
24 earned a Master's Degree in guidance and counseling from The  
25 University of Alabama; and

26 WHEREAS, notably, she is cited as helping the  
27 Original Gospel Harmonettes become one of the pioneering

1 African-American female gospel groups to sign with a major  
2 record label and for encouraging the group to recruit Dorothy  
3 Love Coates as the main lead singer; and

4 WHEREAS, in addition to organizing the Harmonettes,  
5 she served as the group's original pianist, composer, and  
6 arranger, and was influential in obtaining its vocalists; and

7 WHEREAS, the group's songs gave strength and hope to  
8 many during the Civil Rights Movement; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hardy led the men's choir at the Sixth  
10 Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham; she, along with Nathan  
11 Hale Turner, Jr., wrote an autobiography, "The Sweetest  
12 Harmony: Evelyn Starks Hardy and the Original Gospel  
13 Harmonettes"; she made her last recording with singer Inez  
14 Andrews; and

15 WHEREAS, survivors include a cherished daughter,  
16 Stephanie Parker; a cherished son, Darryl Hardy; and seven  
17 grandchildren; she is preceded in death by her beloved and  
18 devoted husband, Samuel Hardy, Jr.; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hardy lived a full life that was a  
20 beautiful testimony to Christ's love and produced music that  
21 blessed countless lives; even though her presence is greatly  
22 missed, her memory is cherished in a legion of hearts; now  
23 therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of  
26 Evelyn Hardy, we are extremely grateful for her abundant life,  
27 and we offer this resolution in highest tribute to her

1       inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to her  
2       friends, family, and the many individuals whose lives she  
3       touched.