

1 HR340
2 170448-1
3 By Representative Ford
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 02-JUN-15

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF CIVIC ACTIVIST LEILA ALMA KING
9 CARSTARPHEN BAKER.

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11 WHEREAS, we note the death of civic activist Leila
12 Alma King Carstarphen Baker on May 30, 2015, with deep sadness
13 and regret; her invaluable life is commended and celebrated
14 with tremendous thanksgiving; and

15 WHEREAS, the passing of Mrs. Baker leaves a void in
16 the lives of her loving family, many friends, and the entire
17 community, where she was highly regarded; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker was born January 21, 1927, in
19 Dallas County, Alabama, to the union of the late Reverend
20 Robert and Roberta Bennett King; she was educated in the
21 Dallas County Public School System; and

22 WHEREAS, as a teenager, she moved to Gadsden,
23 Alabama, where she met a soldier named Van Carstarphen, Jr.,
24 whom she married on July 22, 1949, in Alexandria, Virginia; as
25 a military spouse, she lived around the world; and

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker cultivated a lifelong passion
2 for learning; she earned her GED, studied at Alabama State
3 University, became licensed by the State as an Adult Foster
4 Care Provider Care, and studied Cosmetology under Helen Rowe;
5 she was especially proud of her work as a substitute teacher
6 in France; and

7 WHEREAS, on August 30, 1963, she married John Carrie
8 Baker; she instilled academic excellence, clarity of speech,
9 civic responsibility, and a strong faith in God within her six
10 children; she was a member of First Baptist Church in Green
11 Pastures, where she served as a Church Clerk, President of the
12 Missionary Society, President and Secretary of the Senior
13 Choir, and director of the Youth Choir; she served the Wills
14 Creek District Association of the Alabama State Baptist
15 Convention of the National Baptist Association for over 35
16 years; she taught her first class at age 17 and her last class
17 in the mid-2000's; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker was an active volunteer of the
19 Summer Enrichment Mentoring Program of Etowah County; with a
20 zeal for civil rights, she was unwavering in her commitment to
21 promote the advancement of African Americans; her courage led
22 her to enroll her second grade daughter in Cory Elementary
23 School in 1965 as the first and only black pupil during the
24 school year; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker was a faithful member of the
26 Etowah County Democratic Executive Committee for many years

1 and served as a Voter Precinct Poll Worker for over 30 years;
2 she was awarded the distinction of "Yellow Dog Democrat," by
3 the Alabama Democratic Party; on January 20, 1993, she
4 attended the 1997 Presidential Inauguration of President
5 William Jefferson Clinton as the guest of U.S. Congressman Tom
6 Beville; and

7 WHEREAS, survivors include her children, Barbara C.
8 Bush, Mary L. Carstarphen, Carmen C. Salleh, Bonita Y.
9 Mitchell, and Alecia T. Pemberton (Rendell); one brother,
10 retired United States Army Master Sergeant Woodrow W. King; 14
11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces,
12 nephews, and other relatives; she is preceded in death by her
13 husband, John Carrie Baker; son, retired United States Army
14 Captain Jerry Van Carstarphen; and siblings, Willie Mae
15 Shores; Mary Dessi Irby; Ida Rea Williams; Iola B. Lewis;
16 Eloise Baker; and Robert, Paul, and Earnest King; and

17 WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker was a valued member of the
18 community; although her presence is greatly missed, her memory
19 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were
20 fortunate enough to know her; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
23 Mrs. Leila Alma Baker, we are extremely grateful for her
24 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute
25 to her inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to
26 her family and friends.

