

1 HR21
2 179254-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 17-AUG-16

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.
9 WILLIE B. BATTLE.

10
11 WHEREAS, we deeply regret and are greatly saddened
12 to learn of the death of Mr. Willie B. Battle, and we uplift
13 his inspiring life and legacy with utmost reverence and
14 respect; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Battle was born April 29, 1935, in
19 Toney, Alabama, as the oldest of six children to the union of
20 the late Governor and Damie Battle; he received his education
21 within the Madison County School System; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Battle owned Freeman and Battle Barber
23 Shop, the oldest black owned barber shop in Huntsville,
24 Alabama; he proudly served the Huntsville community as a
25 barber for 57 years and enjoyed providing free services for
26 the Harris Home, sick and shut-ins, private homes, and nursing
27 homes; he had the utmost distinction of being the first

1 African American to serve on the Madison County Barbers
2 Examiners Board; he was an avid supporter of the Alabama A and
3 M community; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Battle was a devout Christian gentleman
5 who dearly loved his church and selflessly helping others; for
6 over 60 years, he was a faithful and dedicated member of
7 Meridianville Primitive Baptist Church, where he served as a
8 Deacon and Chair of the Male Chorus; he attended Sunday School
9 regularly until his health began to fail; notably, he was
10 involved in the construction of the first Meridianville P.B.
11 Church; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Battle is fondly remembered as a
13 devoted husband, loving, caring, and proud father and
14 grandfather, and as a kind and compassionate neighbor and
15 friend; he adored people and people adored him; he never met a
16 stranger and was especially fond of children; he relished
17 sharing a joke or funny story and singing; his pastimes
18 included gardening and fishing; he was affectionately known as
19 Paw Paw to his granddaughter's travel basketball team, which
20 he enthusiastically supported, and was given the title of
21 Prayer Warrior; he courageously endured a nine-year battle
22 with Parkinson's Disease; and

23 WHEREAS, survivors include three daughters, Detra
24 Battle-Blue, Gina Patrice Battle, and Nichole Dionne Battle;
25 two granddaughters, Lauren Nichole Blue and Alexis Renee Blue;
26 four sisters, Ora Childress (Lawrence), Geraldine Bell, and
27 Loretta Langord (Larry), and Elnoria Tibbs (Donald); three

1 sisters-in-law, Elsie D. Nance (Ollie), Hazel D. Pope (Jake),
2 and Mary D. Peoples; one brother-in-law, Otha Draper (Roxie);
3 and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and caring friends; he
4 was preceded in death by his devoted wife, Mattie Draper
5 Battle, Lucy Sledge (Joseph), John T. Battle (Annie), Anna
6 Stewart (Robert E., Sr.), Elizabeth Love, J.B. Battle, and
7 James Edward Battle (Macelean); and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Battle was a valued member of the
9 community; although his presence is greatly missed; his memory
10 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were
11 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
13 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
14 Mr. Willie B. Battle, we are extremely grateful for his
15 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute
16 to inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to his
17 family and friends.