

1 HR209  
2 176378-1  
3 By Representatives Boyd, Brown, Hurst, Nordgren and Johnson  
4 (R)  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 05-APR-16

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8 URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH  
9 THE ANNISTON FREEDOM RIDERS PARK AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK  
10 WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.  
11

12 WHEREAS, during the 1960s Civil Rights Era, many  
13 cities across the country were engulfed in racial violence;  
14 however, Anniston, Alabama, chose to approach its racial  
15 conflict through fair and honest dialogue by way of a biracial  
16 Human Relations Council; and

17 WHEREAS, the incident known as the Anniston Bus  
18 Burning was recounted internationally as a symbol of racial  
19 hatred and violence that added to the incorrect perception  
20 that all white Southerners were intolerant and racist; and

21 WHEREAS, the citizens of Anniston responded  
22 positively to the tragic event, declaring that violence was  
23 not the answer to racial strife; and

24 WHEREAS, President John F. Kennedy recognized and  
25 commended Anniston for its wise and effective plan for  
26 developing just, fair, and peaceful solutions to racial

1 conflict, noting publicly that Anniston's plan was a model for  
2 other cities in America; and

3 WHEREAS, the Freedom Riders played an important role  
4 in the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, both regionally and  
5 nationally; and

6 WHEREAS, while other cities became embroiled in  
7 racial violence, Anniston was widely recognized as the model  
8 city that resolved conflict peacefully and respectfully; and

9 WHEREAS, the project to achieve recognition of  
10 Anniston's commendable history has been a collaborative effort  
11 involving Representative Barbara B. Boyd, Mr. Pete Conroy,  
12 Mrs. Georgia Calhoun, Mr. Willie Duncan, Mr. J. Phillips  
13 Noble, the Calhoun County Commissioners, Jacksonville State  
14 University, and the late Representative Lea Fite; and

15 WHEREAS, Anniston's unique role in the Civil Rights  
16 Movement led to the creation of Freedom Riders Park on Highway  
17 202, which today recognizes not only the Bus Burning event,  
18 but also the resulting progress in justice and fairness that  
19 brought peace and goodwill to so many communities; now  
20 therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we urge Congress to enact  
23 legislation to establish the Anniston Freedom Riders Park as a  
24 National Historic Park within the National Park System.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
26 resolution be provided to the members of the Alabama

1 Congressional delegation for further distribution to the  
2 members of Congress as an indication of our strong support for  
3 the action urged by this resolution.