

1 HR387
2 177952-1
3 By Representative Ledbetter
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 03-MAY-16

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8 RECOGNIZING THE HENAGAR-UNION SACRED HARP CONVENTION
9 UPON THE ANNIVERSARY OF ITS 100TH AND 130TH SESSIONS AT
10 LIBERTY CHURCH.
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12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
13 recognize the Sacred Harp singers of the Henegar community
14 upon the gathering of the Henegar-Union Convention that will
15 celebrate its 100th and 130th sessions at Libery Church on
16 Saturday, July 2, and Sunday, July 3, 2016; and

17 WHEREAS, Sacred Harp, or "shape-note" a cappella
18 singing, reveals a lyrical, rapturous spiritual passion and,
19 with untrained voices of these recordings which frequently
20 break and quaver in moving personal testimonies, fervent
21 eulogies to the dead, stirring hymns, and heartfelt prayers
22 are offered; and

23 WHEREAS, the Henegar community has sought to walk in
24 the paths of their forebears who taught them the traditional
25 style of shape note singing since the time that Sand Mountain
26 was settled; singers will come from more than 20 states,

1 Canada, the United Kingdom, and many other foreign countries
2 to sing together, fellowship, and worship God; and

3 WHEREAS, the Liberty Church community has worked
4 tirelessly to preserve this unique vocal music style and its
5 traditions amidst the waning of Sacred Harp singing in rural
6 Alabama over the last 70 years; the Henagar-Union Convention
7 is quite possibly the largest Sacred Harp singing event held
8 in a rural church in the United States today; and

9 WHEREAS, in the 1930's, when transportation was more
10 challenging, the Sacred Harp singers ventured from the Lookout
11 Mountain Convention near Collinsville and from the North
12 Alabama Convention in south DeKalb County and from Marshall
13 County; and

14 WHEREAS, as automobile travel improved, singers came
15 from Georgia, Tennessee, and other parts of Alabama from the
16 1950's to the 1980's; now singers regularly come to Liberty
17 Church to sing Sacred Harp from all around the world, which is
18 a credit to the hospitality and the pioneering spirit evident
19 in the singings of the Liberty-Union Convention; and

20 WHEREAS, indeed, the Sacred Harp Singers of Liberty
21 Church have contributed significantly as supporters of the
22 arts and over the years, they have drawn an increasingly
23 cosmopolitan following in recovering a sense of personal
24 history and secular folk heritage; now therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
26 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That in recognition of their
27 outstanding contributions and achievements, we hereby most

1 highly commend the Sacred Harp Singers of Liberty Church on
2 Sand Mountain in DeKalb County, Alabama, of whom we are justly
3 proud, and honor them upon the occasion of the Henagar-Union
4 Convention, and by copy of this resolution, we express our
5 sincere tribute and esteem.