

1 HR9
2 181678-1
3 By Representative Scott
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 07-FEB-17

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
9 ELVIRA JONES WILLIS.

10
11 WHEREAS, we are deeply saddened to learn of the
12 passing of Elvira Jones Willis on December 22, 2016, at 82
13 years of age, and we uplift her inspiring life and legacy with
14 utmost reverence and respect; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Elvira was born October 1, 1934, to the
19 union of Will Jones and Catherine Dunson; she accepted Christ
20 at an early age and joined Jones Chapel A.M.E. Church in
21 Fairfield, Alabama; Elvira later joined St. Mary's Catholic
22 Church in Fairfield, Alabama, where she remained an active and
23 faithful member until her health failed; she was also an
24 active member of the Legion of Mary; and

25 WHEREAS, Elvira was a proud member of the Class of
26 1952 of Westfield High School in Westfield, Alabama; she
27 completed nursing school in 1958 from Grady Memorial Hospital

1 School of Nursing and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing
2 from St. Francis University in Joliet, Illinois, in 1981; she
3 remained a lifelong learner attending many nursing conferences
4 and workshops through the years; and

5 WHEREAS, Elvira entered Holy Matrimony with Charles
6 L. (Coote) Willis, Sr., on May 30, 1958, and their blissful
7 union was blessed with two children; Elvira was employed at
8 Lloyd Noland Hospital and also worked as an itinerant nurse at
9 St. Vincent's Hospital; she retired from Lloyd Noland Hospital
10 as Charge Nurse in the Psychiatric Unit in 1997 with 38 years
11 of service; equipped with strength, grace, perseverance, and a
12 nurturing nature, Elvira served her family, friends, church,
13 and community in a faithful, loving, and supportive role as a
14 true servant of God; her pleasant demeanor and infectious
15 laughter uplifted countless souls; and

16 WHEREAS, survivors include her beloved and devoted
17 husband of 58 years, Charles Lee (Coote) Willis, Sr.; two
18 children, Elease W. Cates and Dr. Charles L. (Chuck) Willis,
19 Jr. (Nahketah); four grandchildren, Kymberli Nicole Cates,
20 Rainy Camille Cates, Nakesha Sade' Willis, and Tiffany Nicole
21 Willis; one sister, Annie Ruth Cargill; many nieces and
22 nephews; two devoted godchildren, Jean Calhoun Waddy (Curtis)
23 and James Frederick Calhoun; numerous devoted and loving
24 friends; and her St. Mary's Church family; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Willis was a valued member of the
26 community; although her presence is greatly missed, her memory

1 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were
2 fortunate enough to know her; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
5 Elvira Jones Willis, we are extremely grateful for her
6 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute
7 to her legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to her family
8 and friends.