

HR247 INTRODUCED



1 1YTPZZ-1
2 By Representative Chestnut
3 RFD:
4 First Read: 25-May-23
5 2023 Regular Session



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HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH OF ATTORNEY CAROLYN DIANE GAINES-
VARNER.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sadness that we note the death on May 19, 2023, of Attorney Carolyn Diane Gaines-Varner, of Selma, Alabama, at the age of 72 years; and

WHEREAS, from the moment of her birth on March 22, 1951, Carolyn Gaines-Varner was destined for greatness - a daughter, wife, mother, friend, and a great servant; and

WHEREAS, beginning her academic climb to excellence at George Clem School, she soared as a student and continued as she graduated from Parker High School in 1969 in Birmingham, Alabama; Mrs. Gaines-Varner graduated from Fisk University with honors in three years; in 1972, she began her studies at Boston College Law School; there she met her soulmate Perry Varner, Jr; after graduation they both moved to Selma to work at Chestnut, Sanders, and Sanders Law Firm where she worked for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 1979, Carolyn and Perry became partners in marriage and movement; joining forces with other activists, they co-founded the Bridge Crossing Jubilee and the National Voting Rights Museum where she served as the President of the Board until the time of her death; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of First Baptist Church,



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29 Jack and Jill, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated;
30 but above all, she was a woman of God and a lover of
31 children, community, and justice; she served with dignity,
32 love, and compassion; she always opened her home to those in
33 need; she enjoyed hosting events, shopping, and eating out
34 with loved ones; and

35 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gaines-Varner was preceded in death by
36 her beloved husband, Perry Varner, Jr; her parents, Rev.
37 Damon and Ora Lee Gaines; and her brother, Harold Gaines;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, survivors include her sons, Khari Varner
40 (Tera) and Kimani Varner (Shanell); her daughters, Zakiya
41 Varner (Christopher) and Ebony Gaines (Davdrick); siblings,
42 Faya Rose Toure (Hank), David Gaines (Ursula), and Walter
43 Gaines; and a host of other relatives and friends; and

44 WHEREAS, although her presence will be greatly
45 missed, the memory of Attorney Carolyn Gaines-Varner will be
46 cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved her; now
47 therefore,

48 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
49 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Attorney Carolyn
50 Diane Gaines-Varner is recorded with deep sadness, and this
51 resolution is offered in tribute to her life and with
52 heartfelt sympathy to her family, whose grief is shared by
53 many.