

HR38 INTRODUCED



1 HR38
2 1MKF333-1
3 By Representative Sellers
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 14-Feb-24



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HR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. ORA M. BANKS-PARKER.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the passing of Dr. Ora M. Banks-Parker, longtime resident of Jefferson County, on February 9, 2024, at the age of 106; a long life well-lived, her departure leaves a void in the hearts of her loving family, many friends, and her community, where she was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Ora M. Banks-Parker was born on May 12, 1917, in Marengo County, Alabama, to the union of Eula G. and Bruce Banks; the family moved to Jefferson County while Ora was an infant; she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age, and she was baptized by Dr. C.H. Taylor and united with the First Baptist Church of Ensley; she attended Birmingham City Schools and graduated from the Councill School in Ensley, Industrial High School in Birmingham, and Freeman/Griggs Business College; and

WHEREAS, while still at First Baptist Church of Ensley, Ora married Reverend Dr. Charles H. Parker and subsequently moved to Selma, Alabama, where Dr. Parker served as pastor of West Trinity Baptist Church for over 10 years; while in Selma, Ora studied and received an associate's degree in Elementary Education from Selma University, where she also worked for three years; and



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29 WHEREAS, the Parker family relocated to Birmingham,
30 where Reverend Dr. Parker accepted the pastorate of the
31 Thirty-Second Street Baptist Church and served for over 35
32 years; Ora continued her studies and earned a Bachelor of
33 Science Degree from Alabama State University, a Master of
34 Education Degree from Tuskegee University, and Certificates
35 for Modern Math from Alabama State University and In Ready
36 from Peabody Teacher's College, in Nashville, Tennessee; she
37 received an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Birmingham
38 Baptist Bible College; and

39 WHEREAS, Dr. Ora Banks-Parker's love of education and
40 desire to help children reach their fullest potential led
41 her to serve in the Jefferson County School System for 32
42 years; her first teaching job was at Hooper City High School
43 and her last position was at Shades Mountain Elementary
44 School in 1990; and

45 WHEREAS, Dr. Banks-Parker also served her community
46 and church, including volunteering as an adult reading
47 instructor, Chaplain of the local Birmingham Alumni Chapter
48 of Alabama State University for 20 years, Secretary of the
49 Alabama State Congress of Christian Education for more than
50 30 years, and she was part of the Board of Directors for
51 Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College for more than 40
52 years; and

53 WHEREAS, Ora Banks-Parker faithfully dedicated
54 herself to the service of her church and church family; she
55 was always full of energy and she sought ways to encourage
56 and help others in any way that she could; she taught Sunday



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57 School, sang in the choir, served on the Missionary
58 Ministry, and sponsored a media project for her home church,
59 First Baptist Church of Ensley, which resulted in the
60 installation of three large media screens; and

61 WHEREAS, Ora M. Banks-Parker was known to all as a
62 kind, loving, and compassionate person; she credited her
63 long life to the Lord, as he brought her through so "many
64 wonderful things"; her favorite Bible Scripture was Psalm
65 116:12, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His
66 benefits toward me?"; and

67 WHEREAS, left to treasure the memory of Dr. Ora M.
68 Banks-Parker are her three godchildren, Mrs. Margaree
69 Martin, Ms. Millicent Martin Poole (Christina, Angelica),
70 and Dr. Oscar L. Martin, Jr.; foster daughter, Mrs. Willie
71 E. Vincent; many beloved cousins and extended family
72 members; and hundreds of students whom she patiently
73 dedicated her life to teaching; and

74 WHEREAS, although her presence will be greatly
75 missed, the memory of Dr. Ora M. Banks-Parker will be
76 cherished by all who knew and loved her; now therefore,

77 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
78 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Dr. Ora M. Banks-
79 Parker is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is
80 offered in tribute to her life and service, along with
81 heartfelt sympathy to her loved ones, whose grief is shared
82 by many.