

HR196 INTRODUCED



1 HR196
2 DG711HN-1
3 By Representative Forte
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 03-Apr-25



HR_____ HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
SAMUEL MILLER.

WHEREAS, with great pride and pleasure, this body bestows highest honors on the life, legacy, and accomplishments of United States Veteran and voting rights activist Samuel Miller of Russell County; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Miller was born on March 5, 1919, in Eufaula, Alabama; he married Louise Griggs, and to their holy union 15 children were born; the family worshiped at Antioch Baptist Church where he served as an ordained deacon and Chairman of the Deacon Board; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Miller lived a life of service; he joined the United States Navy and served during World War II, earning the rank of Seaman First Class; upon his honorable discharge, he attended the United States Army Infantry Center where he obtained a diploma and certification as an Automotive Equipment Repair Inspector; he served 37 years of civil service in the U.S. Army's Transportation Motor Pool at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Miller was passionate about serving his community; he was instrumental in cleaning up corruption in Russell County and Phenix City, which were riddled with vice and local officials who took bribes; he was a founding member of the Russell County Betterment Association, which



HR196 INTRODUCED

29 took on problems that involved discrimination and
30 disenfranchisement of African Americans; he was one of the
31 first Black men to register to vote in the county;
32 recognizing the need to help his community to register to
33 vote, he joined the Russell County Voting Association; he
34 taught many people in Russell County to read and write and
35 pass the literacy test; he and other Russell County
36 activists campaigned to get every eligible Black person in
37 the area registered; and

38 WHEREAS, in 1970, Samuel Miller and the association
39 changed their focus to getting African Americans elected
40 into offices in Phenix City; the association continued to
41 register voters in record numbers but continued to be set
42 back by roadblocks, particularly in how the districts were
43 divided, ensuring that White people won the elections; the
44 association called in the United States Department of
45 Justice, which drew up new districts with the advice of
46 Miller and his associates; in 1986, they were successful and
47 the first Black constable and county commissioners were
48 elected to public office; and

49 WHEREAS, Samuel Miller sacrificed many hours to stop
50 political abuse, to ensure that African Americans in Russell
51 County were able to vote, and to end segregation; he was a
52 member of Prince Hall Masonry Lodge and was Master of the
53 Oswichee Lodge 785; he passed to the embrace of his Lord and
54 Savior on November 14, 1992; now therefore,

55 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
56 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the life, legacy, and



HR196 INTRODUCED

57 achievements of Samuel Miller as a Veteran and civil rights
58 activist are given highest honors, and this resolution is
59 presented to the family of Samuel Miller in recognition of
60 his work to free Russell County of segregation and voter
61 suppression.