

HR316 INTRODUCED



1 HR316
2 CXV8UWQ-1
3 By Representative Drummond
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 01-May-25



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4 HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ALEXIS
5 HERMAN.
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7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
8 death of dedicated public servant and Mobile, Alabama
9 native, Alexis Herman, at the age of 77; and

10 WHEREAS, born in 1947 in segregated Mobile, Alexis
11 Herman witnessed racial violence as a child and credited her
12 parents for teaching her to face adversity and to stand by
13 her principles; as a child, her father sued to integrate the
14 Democratic Party in Alabama, becoming the first Black ward
15 leader in the state; she came of age with a generation of
16 Black people who went on to break through color barriers and
17 become "the first African American" in their respective
18 fields; and

19 WHEREAS, Alexis Herman was a 1968 graduate of Xavier
20 University in New Orleans and earned a reputation as an
21 expert in the field of multiculturalism and diversity
22 management involving mergers and acquisitions; after
23 graduation, she returned to Mobile to work to desegregate
24 parochial schools; she founded her own consulting firm to
25 advance diversity in corporate America, working with Proctor
26 & Gamble, AT&T, and other major corporations; and

27 WHEREAS, she began her government service in 1977
28 under then-President Jimmy Carter and became the youngest



HR316 INTRODUCED

29 person to serve as the Director of the Women's Bureau at 29
30 years of age; throughout the 1980s, she worked on political
31 campaigns for prominent Black politicians, including
32 Reverend Jesse Jackson; she became the first Black woman to
33 hold the position of Chief Executive Officer of the
34 Democratic National Convention in 1992; also in 1992, at age
35 45, she was appointed one of two Deputy Directors of
36 President-elect Bill Clinton's transition team, who
37 appointed her to his cabinet as the United States Secretary
38 of Labor, the first African American to serve in that role;
39 within months of taking that role, she mediated the
40 negotiations between United Parcel Service leaders and
41 185,000 striking postal workers, ending the largest U.S.
42 strike in a decade; as a fierce advocate for workplace
43 equality, she promoted initiatives that brought U.S.
44 employment to a three-decade low, oversaw two raises to the
45 minimum wage, and helped pass the Workforce Investment Act
46 of 1998, which expanded workforce training for low-income
47 Americans across the country; and

48 WHEREAS, Alexis Herman broke many barriers in her
49 prolific career and empowered others to do the same; she was
50 a leader in business, government, and her community,
51 dedicating her life to strengthening America's workforce and
52 creating better lives for hardworking families; she was
53 predeceased by her husband, Dr. Charles Franklin; now
54 therefore,

55 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
56 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Alexis Herman is



HR316 INTRODUCED

57 recorded with deep sadness; although her presence, light,
58 and advocacy will be greatly missed, her memory and the work
59 she accomplished will be remembered by a nation that she
60 steadfastly served.