

HR45 INTRODUCED



1 HR45
2 HLWH668-1
3 By Representative Jackson
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 11-Feb-25



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HR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
REVEREND WILLIE POWELL.

WHEREAS, with an overwhelming sense of loss, we mourn the death, yet celebrate the life, of Reverend Willie "Good News" Powell, whose passing on January 23, 2025, at the age of 79, has left a void in the lives of his loving family, friends, and the community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Willie Powell was born January 25, 1945, to Charlie and Nettie Ann Ransom Powell in the Cold Bluff community; he was affectionately known as "Albert" among his siblings; and

WHEREAS, he began his education in the Wilcox County School System; he attended Cold Bluff Elementary School and Yellow Bluff School; finally, he completed his secondary education at Harper High School in Jackson, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, during his formative years, Willie was reared on his family's farm; he spent countless hours working in the fields, performing chores, cutting wood, tending livestock, and accomplishing any other task that was required of him; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Willie relocated to Indianapolis and started his first business, a landscaping company that provided services to personal property owners and businesses in the area; and



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29 WHEREAS, after his venture in Indianapolis, Willie
30 returned to Alabama and owned and operated the Yellow Bluff
31 Grocery Store; Willie was able to establish connections
32 throughout the county and forge relationships that would
33 last a lifetime; some of these connections included the late
34 Reverend T.L. Threadgill, the late County Commissioner Bobby
35 Joe Johnson, and former County Commissioner Eddie Beverly;
36 it was these connections that helped spur Willie toward a
37 political career; and

38 WHEREAS, in 1982, Willie made history by becoming the
39 first African American Circuit Clerk to be elected in Wilcox
40 County; he served his county for 15 years and showed
41 unwavering dedication to its residents; and

42 WHEREAS, a true entrepreneur, Willie continued
43 seeking out business ventures; while serving as Circuit
44 Clerk in 1989, he purchased the Christian Memorial Funeral
45 Home; he would go on to purchase and operate several
46 Christian Memorial Funeral Homes throughout his community;
47 and

48 WHEREAS, one business venture that stood out was his
49 purchasing of the local radio station WYVC 102.3; it would
50 be here that he would earn the nickname "Good News" as he
51 provided entertainment and gospel programming to anyone who
52 would listen; and

53 WHEREAS, outside of his role in politics, Reverend
54 Powell was called to the ministry; his church home was Mt.
55 Gillard Baptist Church in Yellow Bluff; he is the former
56 pastor of Spiritual Power Church in Yellow Bluff, Lily



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57 Baptist Church in Annie Manie, and St. Mary's Church in
58 Darlington; his contributions and fundraising efforts helped
59 to rebuild Lily Baptist Church and St. Mary's Church; and

60 WHEREAS, Reverend Powell was preceded in death by his
61 parents; wife, Lena Mahan Powell; sons, Rodney Keith Powell
62 and Ronald Abrams; grandsons, Malcom Shymil Jones and
63 Gabriel Willie "Boomer" Quarles; son-in-law, Attorney Ty
64 Quarles; brothers, Lee Bony Powell, Houston James Powell,
65 Norah "Bo Bo" Powell, Sylvester Powell, James "Tim" Powell,
66 and Elbert "Sly" Powell; and sisters, Sadie Gipson, Mattie
67 B. Powell, Lucy Bell Hawkins, and Pastor Carrie Ann McCord;
68 and

69 WHEREAS, he will be lovingly remembered by his
70 spouse, Stephinie Dortch Powell; sons, Ricky Powell
71 (Talissa), Rickel Powell (Latanya), Tyrone Huff, and Adam
72 Kidd (Robin); daughters, Chandra Quarles, Donyale Love
73 (James), and Ashley Dortch (Daryl); 28 grandchildren; six
74 great-grandchildren; devoted granddaughter, Honorable Judge
75 Briana Westry; sisters, Ella Beckham and Lula McCellan; and
76 a host of other family, friends, and loved ones; and

77 WHEREAS, Reverend Powell leaves behind a legacy of
78 honor and service which will long endure the passage of time
79 and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were
80 privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; now
81 therefore,

82 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
83 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Reverend Willie
84 "Good News" Powell is recorded with deep sadness, and this



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85 resolution is offered in tribute to his life and service to
86 others, along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose
87 grief is shared by many.