

## HR62 INTRODUCED



1 HR62  
2 9YIIPMM-1  
3 By Representative Underwood  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 13-Feb-25



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

HR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF VFW AUXILIARY POST 8640  
LONG-HODGES-LOWE IN SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations  
are herein extended to the charter members of VFW Auxiliary  
Post 8640 Long-Hodges-Lowe for creating Alabama's first  
Veterans of Foreign Wars post for Black Veterans; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, seven men decided to change the way  
Black Veterans were viewed in the State of Alabama; these  
seven men were John Hampton "The Peanut Man," William  
Appleton, Willie Fitzgerald, Harry Grimes, Grady Hardnett,  
William Hill, and Vinson Perkins, Sr. "1st Commander"; and

WHEREAS, these seven men, all World War II Veterans,  
gathered at McClain's Place on Atlanta Avenue to discuss  
forming Alabama's first VFW post for Black Veterans; Mr.  
Hampton went to the State VFW, which at the time did not  
have African Americans in the state meetings, and the State  
Assistant Commander wrote a letter for Mr. Hampton; this  
letter had to be delivered to New York; and

WHEREAS, these resilient and resourceful men raised  
the \$30 it would take for Mr. Hampton to deliver the letter,  
by train, to New York; he made it in time for the VFW  
National Convention and presented the letter to the National  
Commander; the National Commander called all state  
commanders together, and a charter was given to organize VFW



## HR62 INTRODUCED

29 Post 8640; the post was later named VFW 8640  
30 Long-Hodges-Lowe in honor of Veterans from Southeast  
31 Sheffield who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War II;  
32 now therefore,

33 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
34 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the seven founding members of  
35 VFW Auxiliary Post 8640 Long-Hodges-Lowe are hereby  
36 celebrated for their historic contribution to the  
37 progression of the State of Alabama, and best wishes are  
38 extended for continued success in all future endeavors.