

SJR37 INTRODUCED



1 SJR37
2 HGG2Z33-1
3 By Senators , Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Bell, Butler,
4 Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman, Coleman-Madison,
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones,
6 Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts,
7 Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Weaver, Williams
9 RFD: Rules
10 First Read: 06-Mar-25



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4 SJR___ COMMENDING PIONEER CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY, FRED D.
5 GRAY, FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
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7 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure,
8 highest commendations are conveyed to former Alabama State
9 Representative Fred D. Gray for his many professional
10 achievements and his work in the Civil Rights Movement; and

11 WHEREAS, Fred D. Gray is the Senior Partner of the
12 firm, Gray, Langford, Sapp, McGowan, Gray, Gray, &
13 Nathanson, P.C.; at 94 years of age, Mr. Gray continues to
14 practice law and specializes in civil rights litigation, a
15 career mission of 70 years; and

16 WHEREAS, since 1956, Attorney Gray has worked with
17 the NAACP and Legal Defense Fund, Incorporated, and has been
18 involved in virtually every major legal battle during and
19 since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s;
20 during his career, he has represented both Rosa Parks and
21 Claudette Colvin, which successfully resulted in the Supreme
22 Court ruling that bus segregation is unconstitutional and an
23 order to the City of Montgomery and the State of Alabama to
24 desegregate; and

25 WHEREAS, Attorney Gray has represented many civil
26 rights icons, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
27 Congressman John Lewis, and the Freedom Riders and Selma to
28 Montgomery Marchers; he has represented organizations just a



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few of which include the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and Congress of Racial Equality; and he also represented the victims of the horrific Tuskegee Syphilis Study; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Gray has earned many awards and honorary degrees, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award a civilian can receive, bestowed upon him by President Joseph Biden; he also received the American Bar Association's Medal, the highest award given by that organization, and the Legal Defense Fund's Thurgood Marshall Award; and he has been honored by the Smithsonian Institution with the permanent installation of his portrait in the National Portrait Gallery; and

WHEREAS, Fred Gray and his work is deserving of this recognition; his legacy is looking toward the future to continue to fight racism as the struggle for equal justice continues; the Fred D. Gray Institute for Human and Civil Rights is hosting its Inaugural National Symposium March 14-15 in Montgomery, Alabama, where national scholars, activists, and community leaders will come together to discuss ongoing civil rights issues and provide practical and actionable outcomes; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That former State Representative and pioneer civil rights attorney, Fred D. Gray, is highly commended for his many long-lasting contributions and achievements over the course of his 70-year career, and this



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57 resolution is offered to him as evidence of our high regard
58 and appreciation for his service to the Civil Rights
59 Movement, the State of Alabama, and our great Nation.