

HR202 INTRODUCED



1 HR202
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3 By Representative Sellers
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5 First Read: 05-Mar-26



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HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROSCOE ROBINSON.

WHEREAS, with great sadness, we note the passing of Roscoe Robinson in Birmingham, Alabama, on February 26, 2026, yet we also celebrate an abundant life that ended at the age of 97; and

WHEREAS, Roscoe Robinson was a towering figure in American gospel and soul music whose powerful tenor voice, spiritual conviction, and artistic versatility helped shape the sound of quartet gospel and rhythm & blues for more than seven decades; his life was a testament to perseverance, faith, and musical excellence; and

WHEREAS, born on May 22, 1928, in Dermott, Arkansas, Roscoe grew up in the rich traditions of the Black church, where gospel music was not merely performance but proclamation; from an early age, he displayed a remarkable gift for singing; like many great gospel artists of his era, Roscoe's foundation was built in church choirs and community gatherings, where sacred music served as both worship and witness; and

WHEREAS, blind from a young age, he did not allow physical limitations to define his destiny; instead, he leaned into his extraordinary ear for harmony and tone, developing a voice that would eventually captivate audiences



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29 across the country; and

30 WHEREAS, in the late 1940s and '50s, Roscoe emerged
31 as a prominent voice in the golden era of gospel quartets;
32 he became associated with renowned groups such as The
33 Highway Q.C.'s and The Fairfield Four; known for his
34 dramatic falsetto, controlled vibrato, and passionate
35 delivery, Roscoe helped elevate quartet gospel into a more
36 polished and emotionally charged art form; and

37 WHEREAS, he later performed with the legendary The
38 Blind Boys of Alabama and The Blind Boys of Mississippi; his
39 contributions during this period influenced countless gospel
40 singers and helped preserve the quartet tradition during a
41 time of cultural transition; and

42 WHEREAS, in the 1960s, Roscoe crossed into secular
43 soul and rhythm & blues; at a time when many gospel artists
44 faced criticism for recording secular music, he navigated
45 both worlds with authenticity and excellence; he recorded
46 notable R&B hits including "That's Enough" and "Do It Right
47 Now"; these songs showcased his adaptability while appealing
48 to broader audiences, making him part of the important
49 bridge between sacred quartet traditions and mainstream soul
50 music; and

51 WHEREAS, in 1969, Roscoe moved to Birmingham, his
52 home for decades and the place where his legacy deepened;
53 there, he became a cornerstone of the local gospel community
54 through mentoring young artists, participating in concerts,
55 and supporting the preservation of traditional gospel music;
56 his presence strengthened Birmingham's reputation as a city



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57 deeply connected to quartet gospel excellence; and

58 WHEREAS, Roscoe was inducted into the Birmingham
59 Record Collectors Music Hall of Fame and received multiple
60 honors recognizing his contributions to gospel and soul
61 music; his name became synonymous with vocal excellence and
62 spiritual authenticity; he was admired not only for his
63 vocal talent but also for his professionalism, humility, and
64 dedication to the craft; younger artists often studied his
65 phrasing, stage presence, and breath control as a master
66 class in quartet performance; and

67 WHEREAS, at his core, Roscoe remained rooted in
68 faith; even as he recorded secular music, gospel was never
69 far from his heart; those who knew him often described him
70 as gracious, dignified, and deeply committed to uplifting
71 others; and

72 WHEREAS, Roscoe Robinson's longevity in music,
73 spanning more than 70 years, made him one of the enduring
74 voices of his generation; his passing marks the close of a
75 historic chapter in American gospel and soul music; now
76 therefore,

77 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
78 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Roscoe Robinson is
79 recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered
80 in tribute to his life and service to others; may his soul
81 and his voice continue to resonate in the lives of those he
82 inspired forever.