

HR268 INTRODUCED



1 HR268
2 I3TFL6W-1
3 By Representatives Gray, Lawrence, Hassell, Morris, McClammy,
4 Ensler
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 19-Mar-26



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HR_____ HONORING RUTHER LEE AVERETT ON THE OCCASION OF HER
90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

WHEREAS, with special pleasure, we offer joyful
felicitations to Ruther Lee Averett on the occasion of her
90th Birthday Celebration on April 2, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Ruther Lee Averett was born on April 2,
1936, in Cottonton, Alabama, to Governor Hardman and Sallie
Bell James Morris; and

WHEREAS, she was lovingly raised by her grandparents,
Lucious and Marie James, who instilled in her the values of
faith, perseverance, and family that have guided her
throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, she married the love of her life,
Melvin Averett, and together they shared more than 60 years
of marriage, building a strong and loving family rooted in
faith and commitment; and

WHEREAS, she is the proud and devoted mother of
Carolyn, Phyllis (Ricky), Vladimir (Yolonda), Melvin Bernard
(Thersa), along with a cherished bonus daughter, Earline
Payne; and

WHEREAS, she is the loving grandmother of Travis,
Brandon (Sylvia), Kristen, Nia, Mya, and Khrislyn, and the
proud great-grandmother of Ciniyah, Trent, Bria, Braylen,
Brooke, Ava, and Greyson, along with many beloved bonus



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29 grandchildren who have been touched by her love; and

30 WHEREAS, she is blessed with living siblings Eddie
31 Morris, Marie Reed, Norman Hardman, and Amzie Hardman; she
32 has survived her beloved family members, Annie Griggs,
33 Carter Hudson, and several aunts and uncles who were raised
34 with her and loved as siblings; and

35 WHEREAS, her educational journey began at The
36 Catholic School, later known as St. Joseph, before attending
37 Mt. Olive School, continuing at Claflin School in Columbus,
38 Georgia, and later Old South Girard High School; and

39 WHEREAS, demonstrating determination and
40 perseverance, she later returned to school in her 40s and
41 proudly earned her GED; and

42 WHEREAS, at an early age, she accepted Jesus Christ
43 as her Lord and Savior and united with New Hope Baptist
44 Church in Cottonton, Alabama; in 1960, she became a faithful
45 member of Pine Hill Baptist Church, where she served as a
46 Sunday School teacher, choir member, and missionary; and

47 WHEREAS, she worked diligently throughout her life at
48 National Linen Mill, Anderson Mill (later Bibb Mill), and
49 Opelika Manufacturing Company (later Leshar Mill), from
50 which she eventually retired after years of dedicated
51 service; and

52 WHEREAS, throughout 90 remarkable years, she has
53 demonstrated strength, faith, love, wisdom, and devotion to
54 family, church, and community; now therefore,

55 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
56 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Ruther Lee Averett is highly



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57 honored and commended, and this resolution is offered to her
58 in highest tribute, as well as with sincere best wishes for
59 continued prosperity and blessings.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Ruther Lee Averett's
61 faith, resilience, and love for her family serve as an
62 inspiration to all who know her and to generations yet to
63 come.