

HR273 INTRODUCED



1 HR273
2 CX1RBQW-1
3 By Representatives Travis, McCampbell, England
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 19-Mar-26



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HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF ABRAHAM KENNARD, JR.

WHEREAS, with profound sorrow, we note the passing of
Mr. Abraham Kennard, Jr. of Forkland, Alabama, on March 12,
2026, while we also celebrate with thanksgiving his long,
beautiful life that ended at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, born on January 13, 1940, in the Warrior
Swamp Community of Forkland, Abraham Kennard, Jr. was the
fourth child of 13 born to Abraham and Mary Lou Kennard; and

WHEREAS, Abraham confessed Christ at an early age and
joined the New Green Oak Baptist Church, where he served
faithfully in Sunday School and the morning worship
services; he was also church secretary for a time; in 1969,
Abraham was ordained a deacon at New Green Oak alongside his
brother, James, under the pastorate of the late Reverend
E.D. Bates; during his time at New Green Oak, Abraham and
his son, Rocky, were known for singing hymns; to this day,
Abraham's name remains on the church's cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, he later joined St. Matthew Watson Baptist
Church in Boligee, where he continued to serve the Lord as a
member of the deacon board, male chorus, and Sunday School;
he freely devoted his time, talents, and tithes to serve his
community; he was often called upon to act as Master of
Ceremonies and was widely known for his narration of the 12



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29 Tribes of Israel Program because of his oratory skills and
30 biblical knowledge; and

31 WHEREAS, Abraham was highly intelligent and excelled
32 in the Greene County School System; he graduated from Greene
33 County Training School in 1957 and enrolled in Stillman
34 College; however, before he could earn his bachelor's
35 degree, he was drafted into the U.S. Army to serve in
36 Vietnam; answering with bravery and courage, he marched
37 through the unknown with faith as his light and God as his
38 guide; he was honorably discharged in 1969; and

39 WHEREAS, following his military service, Abraham
40 completed his degree at Stillman; he later received his
41 Master of Education, Double A Certification, and Principal
42 Certification from Alabama State University; his passion for
43 education became a lifelong career, educating the children
44 of Greene County for more than 50 years; Abraham devoted
45 many years as a teacher before rising to serve as a
46 respected principal; and

47 WHEREAS, over the course of his career, Abraham was
48 affectionately known as "The Professor," "AK," and "Mr.
49 Kennard" to his students and colleagues; however, he will
50 always be "June" or "Abe" to his family; and

51 WHEREAS, to his family, Abraham was also the fish
52 fryer who brought everyone together; he often danced with
53 his youngest sister, Mollie "Pat," to "Green Onion," a song
54 without words; he had a way of making others feel welcome,
55 greeting everyone he met with a bright, warm smile; he
56 enjoyed fishing, hunting, and eating good soul food; as a



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57 sports fan, he enjoyed watching the Boston Celtics, New York
58 Yankees, and Auburn Tigers; and

59 WHEREAS, Abraham was a lifetime member of Alpha Phi
60 Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated; Greene County Retired
61 Educators Association; Alabama Education Association; and
62 many other affiliations; and

63 WHEREAS, Abraham was preceded in death by his
64 parents; two sisters, Margaret Kennard and Alvenia
65 Kennard-Hawkins; and three brothers, James Kennard, Sr.,
66 Alfred Kennard, Sr., and Reverend Dr. John Kennard; left to
67 cherish his memory are his loving wife of nearly 60 years,
68 Flora Ella Harris Kennard; son, Roswell "Rocky" Kennard;
69 five sisters, Mary Kennard, Annie Mack (Isaiah), Girlee
70 Kennard-Harris, Rosie Williams (Elmore), and Mollie
71 Kennard-Rowe; two brothers, Tommy Kennard and Judge Aaron
72 Kennard (Sandra Faye); bonus siblings, nieces, nephews, and
73 a host of other relatives, friends, and former students; and

74 WHEREAS, Abraham's life was a beautiful reflection of
75 his faith in Christ, his deep love for his family, and the
76 joy he brought into every room; now therefore,

77 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
78 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. Abraham
79 Kennard, Jr. is recorded with deep sadness, and even as we
80 mourn his death and the loss it represents, we also
81 celebrate his faith, kindness, and spirit, which will remain
82 a lasting inspiration, carried forward by the family he
83 cherished so dearly.