

HR304 INTRODUCED



1 HR304

2 5VQTY36-1

3 By Representatives Clarke, Drummond, Jones, Bracy

4 RFD:

5 First Read: 31-Mar-26



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HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CHERYL SMILEY WILLIAMS.

WHEREAS, it is with deep sorrow that we note the passing of Cheryl Smiley Williams on March 21, 2026, at the age of 67; her loss leaves an enduring void in the lives of her family, friends, and the community she so faithfully served; and

WHEREAS, Cheryl Smiley Williams was born December 1, 1958, in Sweetwater, Alabama, to the union of Otis Nathaniel Smiley and Emma Louise Moore Smiley; she was raised in the Holiness Church, where she developed the faith and values that guided her life and leadership; and

WHEREAS, she attended The University of Alabama, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business and a Master of Arts in Marketing; she later achieved certification as a Government Procurement Counselor and Economic Developer through the University of Oklahoma, credentials she used to advance opportunity and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, for more than 40 years, Cheryl Williams distinguished herself as a leader in business and public service; she championed small and disadvantaged businesses and served as Director of the University of South Alabama Small Business Development Center from 1987 to 1996, where she managed substantial budgets and launched innovative



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29 programs; she also served the federal government as Chief of
30 the Mobile District Corps of Engineers Small and
31 Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office, overseeing
32 procurement initiatives across seven states; and

33 WHEREAS, in 1994, she became owner and operator of
34 Spherion Staffing Services in Mobile, strengthening the
35 region's workforce and supporting both local enterprises and
36 Fortune 1000 companies; her office earned national
37 recognition, consistently ranking among Spherion's Top 100;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, Cheryl Williams was deeply committed to
40 mentorship and education; she served as a Marketing
41 Instructor at Alabama State University and as a facilitator
42 for Mobile Works and the Mobile County Commission; she
43 reached an even broader audience through her Business
44 Matters segment on WKRK TV-5; and

45 WHEREAS, her faith remained the foundation of her
46 life; she was a founding member of New Life Ministries
47 Church and was devoted to its ministry and growth; and

48 WHEREAS, known for her generosity and servant
49 leadership, she dedicated herself to strengthening her
50 community; she served as a National Board Member of
51 Volunteers of America, a member of Delta Sigma Theta
52 Sorority, Incorporated, and on the board of the Mobile
53 Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women; her
54 many contributions were recognized by her induction into the
55 City of Prichard Hall of Fame and her designation as a Steel
56 Magnolia by Mobile Bay Monthly; and



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57 WHEREAS, Cheryl met her devoted husband, Louis, in
58 childhood as neighbors; years later, they reunited and built
59 a marriage grounded in enduring love, shared history, and
60 deep devotion; and

61 WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents and
62 is survived by her loving husband, Louis Williams;
63 stepdaughter, Leslie Doumbia (Lassine); grandchildren, Ibra,
64 Nandi, and Louis Charles; siblings, Otis Marlon Smiley
65 (Phyllis), Deacon Roderick Ladaraneal Smiley, and Shelia
66 Evans; and a host of extended family members and friends;
67 and

68 WHEREAS, while she will be deeply missed, her legacy
69 will live on in the many lives she touched; now therefore,

70 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
71 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Cheryl Smiley
72 Williams is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution
73 is offered in tribute to her life and with heartfelt
74 sympathy to her family and all who mourn her passing.