

HR78 INTRODUCED



1 HR78
2 G3W8MC2-1
3 By Representative Chestnut
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 03-Feb-26



1
2
3
4 HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR.
5 LYNDA BLACKMON LOWERY.
6

7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
8 death on December 24, 2025, of Dr. Lynda Blackmon Lowery of
9 Selma, Alabama, at the age of 75; her passing leaves a deep
10 and irreplaceable void in the lives of her loving family,
11 her many friends, and the Selma community, where she was
12 widely known, respected, and cherished; and

13 WHEREAS, Lynda Blackmon Lowery was the first of four
14 children born to the union of Alfred Charles and Ludie
15 Wright Blackmon; she was a lifelong worshiper in the African
16 Methodist Episcopal Church and a devoted member of Ward
17 Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma, where she faithfully served
18 as a Steward; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Lowery was a pivotal and historic figure
20 in the American Civil Rights Movement; on March 7, 1965, the
21 day now forever known as Bloody Sunday, she was brutally
22 beaten by law enforcement on the Edmund Pettus Bridge,
23 sustaining injuries that required 35 stitches; shortly
24 thereafter, at the age of 15, she made history as the
25 youngest of the 300 individuals who marched the full 54
26 miles from Selma to Montgomery in March 1965; and

27 WHEREAS, Dr. Lowery's early involvement in the
28 struggle against American apartheid, enforced by the "Jim



HR78 INTRODUCED

29 Crow" laws, laid the foundation for a lifetime of civil and
30 human rights advocacy; she devoted her life to educating and
31 empowering young people to use their voices and votes for
32 social change and to, in her words, "put the word human back
33 into humanity"; and

34 WHEREAS, she authored the award-winning memoir,
35 Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma
36 Voting Rights March, which documented her experiences during
37 the march and was later adapted for both the stage and
38 graphic novels, ensuring her story would educate and inspire
39 generations to come; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Lowery was a graduate of the College of
41 Staten Island and previously served her community as a
42 Senior Case Manager at Cahaba Mental Health, further
43 demonstrating her lifelong commitment to service and
44 compassion; and

45 WHEREAS, her civic, professional, and social
46 affiliations included Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated;
47 the Optimist Club of Selma; the Order of the Eastern Star;
48 President of the Board of Selma AIDS Information and
49 Referral; and the Alabama Democratic Conference; and

50 WHEREAS, Dr. Lowery received numerous awards and
51 honors in recognition of her sacrifices, courage, and
52 unwavering dedication to her community and to justice; among
53 these honors, she was celebrated as an iconic and historic
54 woman at an intimate ceremony at the historic Manoogian
55 Mansion of Mayor Michael E. Duggan on March 19, 2024, where
56 she received a key to the City of Detroit; she received the



HR78 INTRODUCED

57 Theatre Arts and Humanitarian Award at the 2024
58 International Black Theatre Festival on July 29, 2024; she
59 was selected as one of the 25 honorees of the This Is
60 Alabama Women Who Shape the State in 2025; and she received
61 an honorary Doctorate Degree from Carolina Christian College
62 on May 3, 2025; and

63 WHEREAS, Dr. Lynda Blackmon Lowery was blessed in
64 marriage to Collie C. Lowery, to whom she remained
65 faithfully devoted until his passing in 2019; and

66 WHEREAS, she is survived by her children, Danita
67 Christine Blackmon and Bonita Blackmon; grandchildren, Grady
68 Williams, Jenese Williams, and Cherry Chenell Blackmon;
69 great-grandchild, Bryson Stephan Blackmon; and a host of
70 other loving and devoted extended family members and
71 friends; now therefore,

72 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
73 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Dr. Lynda Blackmon
74 Lowery is recorded with deep sadness, and even as we mourn
75 her death and the loss it represents, we also honor and
76 celebrate a life of extraordinary courage, service, and
77 sacrifice; this resolution is offered in highest tribute,
78 together with heartfelt sympathy to her family, whose grief
79 is shared by many.