

1 SJR25
2 182046-3
3 By Senators Allen, Singleton, Reed and Smitherman
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 14-FEB-17

1 SJR25

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4 ENROLLED, SJR25,

5 POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING SHANDY WESLEY JONES ON HIS
6 MANY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EMINENCE AS A PROMINENT HISTORICAL
7 FIGURE IN ALABAMA HISTORY.
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9 WHEREAS, it is a tremendous privilege to
10 posthumously honor Shandy Wesley Jones for his many
11 contributions and eminence as a prominent historical figure in
12 Alabama history; and

13 WHEREAS, Shandy Wesley Jones was born December 20,
14 1816, on a Madison County plantation; on December 1, 1820, he
15 was emancipated, along with his mother Elizabeth, and two
16 older sisters, Ann and Evalina; he learned to read and write
17 and grew up as a free black man; and

18 WHEREAS, on December 5, 1837, Shandy Wesley Jones
19 united in Holy Matrimony with Georgia native Evalina Love in
20 Tuscaloosa, Alabama; during this time, he purchased and ran a
21 barbershop in a prime location, and by the 1860s, he emerged
22 as one of the richest black men in Alabama; and

23 WHEREAS, Shandy Wesley Jones was active in the
24 American Colonization Society and advocated free blacks moving
25 to the newly formed colony of Liberia in Africa; he was an

abolitionist who served in the Alabama Legislature and held the utmost distinction of being Tuscaloosa's first elected black official; on May 21, 1866, he founded Hunter's Chapel, A.M.E. Zion Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and, around this time, he also formed a nearby school for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 1869, Shandy Wesley Jones went into hiding in Moundville, Alabama, to escape the Ku Klux Klan; Shandy Jones later went to Mobile, where his family joined him; Evalina died shortly after moving to Mobile, and Shandy married his second wife, Lucinda Jones; and

WHEREAS, September 25, 1871, marks the date Shandy Wesley Jones was appointed to a position in the Mobile Custom House by President Ulysses S. Grant; Shandy Wesley Jones quickly rises to the position of inspector and serves in this esteemed role for 13 years; from 1883 until 1884, Shandy Wesley Jones serves as pastor of Little Zion A.M.E. Zion Church; he died of a heart condition on February 4, 1886, and planned his own funeral service held February 5, 1886; the February 19 issue of The Star of Zion hails him as being one of Zion's old pioneers; and

WHEREAS, a special dedication ceremony was held February 1, 2017, to unveil the new headstone for Shandy Wesley Jones' recently discovered gravesite in Mobile's Magnolia Cemetery; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Shandy Wesley Jones is
3 posthumously honored and commended, and this resolution is
4 offered to his legacy in highest tribute, and it is directed
5 that his family receive a copy of this resolution in warmest
6 regards.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR25

Senate 14-FEB-17

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 16-FEB-17

By: Senator Allen