

1 HJR48  
2 204899-2  
3 By Representative Warren  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 20-FEB-20

NAMING U.S. HIGHWAY 29 SOUTH IN TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA,  
LUCIUS D. AMERSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.

WHEREAS, before Reconstruction, a largely African American population in Macon County was not able to vote for a sheriff; and

WHEREAS, Lucius D. Amerson was an Army veteran who became sheriff of Macon County, Alabama, in the late 1960's following the passage of the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Amerson was the first African American sheriff elected in the deep South after Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, many saw his election as a sign of progress for Black Americans in Alabama fighting for equality and against police brutality; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Amerson's story represents a defining moment in law enforcement history; today, police departments nationwide acknowledge that recruiting and maintaining a diverse force remains a challenge; Alabamians such as Sheriff Amerson serves as a constant reminder that

1 establishing trust between law enforcement and the public is a  
2 critical component of ensuring public safety in this state for  
3 future generations; and

4 WHEREAS, the National Law Enforcement Museum in  
5 Washington, D.C., will highlight the historic life of Sheriff  
6 Amerson as a shining example of the vital role diversity plays  
7 in keeping our great communities safe; and

8 WHEREAS, it is befitting that this state pays  
9 tribute to Sheriff Amerson for his loyal and courageous  
10 service to the residents of Macon County, as well as his  
11 impact in breaking racial barriers for the greater good of  
12 this state; now therefore,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
14 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in honor of Sheriff Lucius D.  
15 Amerson, we declare that U.S. Highway 29 South (SR-15) from  
16 mile point 162.582 to 164.609 on U.S. Highway 29 South (SR-15)  
17 be named in perpetuity, Lucius D. Amerson Memorial Highway.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of  
19 Transportation is requested to erect the appropriate signs or  
20 markers as provided in this resolution in recognition of this  
21 memorial designation.