

1 HR8
2 181681-1
3 By Representative Scott
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 07-FEB-17

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
9 ELIJAH NEWTON.

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11 WHEREAS, we are deeply saddened to learn of the
12 death of Elijah Newton on December 25, 2016, at 98 years of
13 age, and we uplift his inspiring life and legacy with utmost
14 reverence and respect; and

15 WHEREAS, the passing of Elijah Newton leaves a void
16 in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the
17 entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

18 WHEREAS, Elijah Newton was born October 8, 1918, in
19 Sumter County, Alabama, to the union of Sullivan and Mary
20 Smoot Newton; in January 1922, he moved, along with his
21 family, to Geiger-Emelle, Alabama; at an early age, he
22 accepted Christ into his life and joined Old Jerusalem Baptist
23 Church in Emelle; in 1941, he moved from Sumter County to
24 Birmingham to join his two older brothers and an uncle and
25 aunt living in Birmingham; he joined the Mt. Olive Baptist
26 Church in Vinesville/Fairfield, Alabama, where he served for
27 75 years in various capacities; his servant's heart and

1 powerful devotional prayers were evident of his strong
2 relationship with the Lord; and

3 WHEREAS, Elijah Newton was drafted into the military
4 on December 1942 and received an honorable discharge in April
5 1943; in February 1944, he married Reabecca Dancy of Electric
6 Mills, Mississippi, and their union was blessed with six sons
7 and four daughters; he was employed with the U.S. Steel Wire
8 Division and retired in 1976; he was active in many Fairfield
9 civic organizations and was an avid advocate for voting; at
10 age 90, he renewed his driver's license to ensure that he
11 would have identification to vote for President Barack Obama;
12 he traveled to numerous parts of the United States visiting
13 his children, grandchildren, and large extended family; and

14 WHEREAS, survivors include his 10 children, Robert
15 (Ruth Ann) Newton, Lewis (Thelma) Newton, Lorenzo (Susan)
16 Newton, Sullivan (Nina) Newton, Charles (Diane) Newton,
17 Sylvester Napoleon (Brenda) Newton, Linda Dale Newton, Cheryl
18 Joseph (Rudolph), Arlene Taylor, and Delaine (Lee) Prather;
19 only sister, Mary Alice Bell; three sisters-in-law, Maple
20 Newton, Vannie Pearl Newton, and Madie Dancy; 19
21 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren; and a host of
22 nephews, nieces, and cousins, who all miss his wisdom and
23 encouragement; he was preceded in death by his parents, wife,
24 and seven brothers, Melvin, John A., Sullivan, McQuellen,
25 Ercel, Charles Elliot, and Lynn Edison; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Newton was a valued member of the
27 community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory

1 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were
2 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
5 Elijah Newton, we are extremely grateful for his abundant
6 life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute to his
7 inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to his
8 family and friends.