

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

8 POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING SHANDY WESLEY JONES ON HIS  
9 MANY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EMINENCE AS A PROMINENT HISTORICAL  
10 FIGURE IN ALABAMA HISTORY.  
11

12 WHEREAS, it is a tremendous privilege to  
13 posthumously honor Shandy Wesley Jones for his many  
14 contributions and eminence as a prominent historical figure in  
15 Alabama history; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, Shandy Wesley Jones was active in the  
27 American Colonization Society and advocated free blacks moving

1 to the newly formed colony of Liberia in Africa; he was an  
2 abolitionist who served in the Alabama Legislature and held  
3 the utmost distinction of being Tuscaloosa's first elected  
4 black official; on May 21, 1866, he founded Hunter's Chapel,  
5 A.M.E. Zion Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and, around this  
6 time, he also formed a nearby school for African Americans;  
7 and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, a special dedication ceremony was held  
24 February 1, 2017, to unveil the new headstone for Shandy  
25 Wesley Jones' recently discovered gravesite in Mobile's  
26 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.