

1 HJR471
2 186605-2
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 09-MAY-17

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8 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING.
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10 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King was born on April 27,
11 1927, in Marion, Alabama; and

12 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King attended racially
13 segregated public schools, graduating from Lincoln Normal
14 School in 1945 at the top of her class; and

15 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King's prodigious talent as a
16 musician and singer won her scholarships to attend racially
17 integrated colleges outside of Alabama, including Antioch
18 College of Ohio and later the renowned New England
19 Conservatory of Music in Boston; and

20 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1953, Coretta Scott King
21 married the man she first met in Boston - Reverend Dr. Martin
22 Luther King, Jr., with whom she would share a personal life, a
23 family of four children, and the leadership of a movement that
24 inspired millions globally; and

25 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King and her husband returned
26 to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954, where Martin assumed the role
27 as pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church; and

1 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King worked diligently during
2 the Montgomery Bus Boycott, historically recognized as the
3 starting point of this nation's most significant campaign for
4 civil rights, justice and equality - a movement that demanded
5 her personal fortitude in the face of death threats, arrests,
6 house bombings, violence, and economic intimidation; and

7 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King regularly emphasized the
8 importance of recognizing not only the contributions of men
9 but those of the women, who sacrificed personally and
10 professionally in the cause of justice; and

11 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King's advocacy and activism
12 helped to move Congress to enact a series of milestone laws to
13 guarantee equal treatment under the law, including the Civil
14 Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

15 WHEREAS, in confronting the cruel assassination of
16 her husband in 1968, Coretta Scott King demonstrated
17 tremendous strength in the face of sorrow; and

18 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King focused her energy on
19 founding the King Center, an institution dedicated to the
20 vision of non-violent social change that defined the life's
21 work of her slain husband; and

22 WHEREAS, her resolve, commitment, and passion in
23 pursuing the cause of justice and equality in the United
24 States and abroad earned Coretta Scott King the title of First
25 Lady of the Civil Rights Movement; and

26 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King continued her advocacy
27 in a 13-year campaign to establish a national holiday in

1 January recognizing the birthday of her husband, Martin Luther
2 King, Jr., and the goals of social love, justice, and equality
3 that he dedicated his life to assure; and

4 WHEREAS, her activism and commitment to the concerns
5 of justice and fairness extended to matters of equality across
6 communities and around the globe, regardless of gender,
7 religion, ability, or sexual orientation; and

8 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King authored a book
9 recounting many experiences in life entitled: "My Life, My
10 Love, My Legacy"; and

11 WHEREAS, the life and commitment of Coretta Scott
12 King have helped to make this country and this world a greater
13 society that embraces the beloved community where justice
14 rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream;
15 now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we offer our tremendous
18 gratitude in commending the life and legacy of Mrs. Coretta
19 Scott King on this, the 90th anniversary of her birth.