

1 HR267
2 201928-1
3 By Representative Gray
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 23-MAY-19

RECOGNIZING THE 1969 GRADUATING CLASS OF J.W. DARDEN
HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS 50TH CLASS REUNION.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations
are herein proudly presented to the 1969 graduating class of
J.W. Darden High School upon the occasion of its 50th class
reunion; and

WHEREAS, J.W. Darden High School holds a rich
history; founded in 1951, J.W. Darden High School was
Opelika's African-American high school until the city's high
schools integrated in 1972; the school board chose to name the
high school after Lee County's first African-American doctor,
J.W. Darden; although J.W. Darden High School eventually
closed, it remains a very remarkable school today; a strip of
grass in front of the facility frames a stone marker that
commemorates Dr. J.W. Darden and the efforts of the many
teachers who molded the minds of Opelika's black high school
students; and

WHEREAS, the J.W. Darden High School graduation that
took place in May 1969 consisted of 107 students; the class

1 officers included President Charles Harper; Vice President
2 Harvey Jackson; Secretary Evelyn Melton; and Treasurer Frances
3 Forman; Wilbert D. Payne, Jr., serves as local Chairperson of
4 the 1969 graduating class; and

5 WHEREAS, very special recognition is extended to the
6 remarkable principal of J.W. Darden High School, the late Dr.
7 William Earnest Morton; Dr. Morton was a friend, mentor, and
8 leader to many; and

9 WHEREAS, the purple and gold Panther alumni, the
10 1969 graduating class of J.W. Darden High School, have
11 followed a variety of professional paths, carrying a winning
12 spirit into their communities, contributing to the quality of
13 life in Alabama and in the nation; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
15 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the J.W. Darden High School
16 Class of 1969 is commended and congratulated upon the occasion
17 of its 50th class reunion, and we hereby dedicate this
18 resolution to the graduates and their late principal, Dr.
19 William Earnest Morton, in utmost admiration and esteem.