

1 HJR344
2 108876-3
3 By Representatives Holmes, Newton (D), Moore (M), Knight,
4 Scott, Howard, Coleman, Warren, Todd, Buskey, Robinson (O),
5 Dunn, Salaam, England, Dukes and Graham
6 RFD: Rules
7 First Read: 10-MAR-09

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 HONORING ALABAMA'S BLACK LEGISLATORS SERVING DURING
4 THE RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD OF 1868 TO 1878.

5
6 WHEREAS, Black Alabamians during the Reconstruction
7 Period played an integral role in this Legislature; these
8 members substantially contributed to our state's well-being in
9 multiple areas, including economic, educational, religious,
10 social, political, and human rights; and

11 WHEREAS, during the Reconstruction Period between
12 1868 and 1878, Black Legislators ably represented a variety of
13 interests: Freeman and formerly enslaved; rich and poor; urban
14 and rural; industrial and agricultural; highly educated and
15 self-made; and even Republican and Democratic; unquestionably,
16 the unique diversity of backgrounds held by these early office
17 holders positively and perpetually enriched our state and its
18 governmental processes; and

19 WHEREAS, like all Senators and Representatives,
20 these public officials made significant sacrifices for the
21 common good of our state; they endured strains on their
22 physical and mental health, as well as the loss of income,
23 business opportunities, and family time; however, between 1868
24 and 1878, the burdens carried by Black Legislators were even
25 more difficult as they were justifiably concerned for their

1 personal safety and that of their families and the loss of
2 their livelihood; and

3 WHEREAS, the contributions of these Black Alabamians
4 to the legislative process were both distinctive and
5 distinguished; their perspective often best represented the
6 needs and rights of the common person, irrespective of his or
7 her color; and their passion for equality and their commitment
8 to justice, which had been learned first hand, served as a
9 constant and continuing force that eventually ensured equal
10 representation for all; and

11 WHEREAS, as our state and nation progresses into
12 this new century of change and recommitment, it is especially
13 appropriate to look backwards to those who came before and who
14 gave of themselves for the betterment of all Alabamians; now
15 therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in order to honor these Black
18 Alabamians who have served in this Legislature, we direct the
19 following actions:

20 1. The preparation of three identical plaques
21 containing the names of each Black member of the Alabama
22 Legislature who served during the Reconstruction Period of
23 1868 to 1878.

24 2. Each plaque shall contain a listing of such
25 members by chronological order of service, with the

1 appropriate title, Senator or Representative, and the county
2 the member represented.

3 3. One plaque shall be displayed in the Rotunda of
4 the State Capitol.

5 4. One plaque shall be displayed on the grounds of
6 the State Capitol.

7 5. One plaque shall be displayed in the second floor
8 entrance area of the Alabama State House.

9 6. The Executive Director of the Alabama Historical
10 Commission shall determine, ~~in consultation with the sponsor~~
11 ~~of this act,~~ the location of the plaques in the Rotunda and on
12 the grounds of the State Capitol. The Secretary of the Senate
13 and the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall determine,
14 ~~in consultation with the sponsor of this act,~~ the location of
15 the plaque in the State House.

16 7. The cost of the plaques are to be paid from funds
17 appropriated to the Legislature.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 12-MAR-09.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate	26-MAR-09	Amended and Passed
House	26-MAR-09	Concurred in Senate Amendment