HR213

128129-1

By Representative Hall

RFD:

First Read: 29-MAR-11
MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. JOHN L. CASHIN.

WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we receive news of the death of Dr. John L. Cashin of Huntsville, Alabama, on March 21, 2011, at the age of 82 years; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Dr. Cashin leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, his many friends, and the entire community, where he was well-known and highly regarded as an icon of the Civil Rights Movement; among the milestones of his remarkable life, he was the first Black to run for Governor of the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, born April 16, 1928, in Huntsville, he was a precocious youth who started kindergarten at the age of three and was co-valedictorian with his older brother in their Alabama A and M High School graduating class; he spent two years at Fisk University, attended Tennessee State University, earned his D.D.S. degree from Meharry Medical School in 1952, and then entered the United States Army, where he attained the rank of First Lieutenant and Chief of Dental Services for soldiers stationed near Fontainebleau, France; and
WHEREAS, after returning to the United States, he became active in the Civil Rights Movement and achieved national prominence in the late 1960s when he founded the National Democratic Party of Alabama as an alternative to the Alabama Democratic Party, which was considered racially exclusive; by 1970, his party had helped elect more than 100 Blacks to local offices, and Dr. Cashin took the dramatic step of running for Governor in opposition to George Wallace; Dr. Cashin received 125,491 votes, approximately 15 percent; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his ground-breaking gubernatorial campaign, Dr. Cashin ran for Mayor of Huntsville in 1964 and led a delegation to the 1968 Democratic National Convention, challenging Alabama's regular delegation; and

WHEREAS, through the years, Dr. Cashin earned respect for his exceptional abilities and unwavering commitment to justice and equality; although his presence will be missed, his legacy will endure and his memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who were fortunate to know him; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Dr. John L. Cashin is recorded with deep sadness and, by copy of this resolution to his daughter, Sheryll D. Cashin, we convey our heartfelt sympathy to his family.