

1 HR851
2 121435-1
3 By Representatives Boyd and Hurst
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 08-APR-10

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 RECOGNIZING THE CREATION OF FREEDOM RIDERS PARK.

9
10 WHEREAS, the incident known as the Anniston Bus
11 Burning was recounted internationally as a symbol of hatred
12 and violence that added to the incorrect stereotype that all
13 white Southerners were intolerant and racist; and

14 WHEREAS, the citizens of Anniston responded to the
15 tragic event, declaring that violence is not the answer to
16 racial problems; and

17 WHEREAS, when many Southern cities were engulfed in
18 racial violence, Anniston chose to approach its racial
19 problems through fair and honest dialogue by way of a biracial
20 Human Relations Council; and

21 WHEREAS, President John F. Kennedy commended
22 Anniston for its wise and effective plan for developing just,
23 fair, and peaceful solutions to racial problems; and

24 WHEREAS, President Kennedy, in a public address,
25 held up Anniston's way of dealing with racial problems as a
26 model for other cities in America; and

1 WHEREAS, the Freedom Riders played an important part
2 in the Civil Rights revolution in the 1960s, and the Bus
3 Burning was visible to the world; and

4 WHEREAS, the Anniston Bus Burning infused new
5 resolve in Civil Rights workers and thus contributed to the
6 success of the Civil Rights movement; and

7 WHEREAS, the names of other southern cities became
8 well-known for racial violence, while Anniston did not become
9 widely recognized as a city that chose a reasonable and
10 peaceful approach to its racial problems; and

11 WHEREAS, the generations after the 1960s need to
12 know not only the stories of racial violence, but the accounts
13 of the reasonable, common sense, and intelligent approaches
14 that brought justice, fairness, and goodwill to Anniston and
15 other communities; and

16 WHEREAS, the project to achieve recognition of
17 Anniston's commendable history has been a collaborative effort
18 among Representative Barbara B. Boyd, Mr. Pete Conroy, Mrs.
19 Georgia Calhoun, Mr. Willie Duncan, Mr. J. Phillips Noble, the
20 Calhoun County Commissioners, Jacksonville State University,
21 and the late Representative Lea Fite; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
23 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That because Anniston played a
24 unique role in the Civil Rights Revolution, it is wise and
25 proper to create a Freedom Riders Park on Highway 202, which
26 will recognize not only the Bus Burning event, but also the

1 resulting progress in justice and fairness that brings peace
2 and goodwill to communities.