

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

As Engrossed: H3/16/11

HMR 1005

4
5 By: Representatives Clemmer, T. Baker

6
7 **HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

8 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. SANDY ALEXANDER ROBINSON
9 AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE
10 OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. SANDY
15 ALEXANDER ROBINSON AND IN RECOGNITION OF
16 HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF
17 ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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19
20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

22
23 *WHEREAS, Mr. Sandy Alexander Robinson, Jr. was born August 18, 1925, in*
24 *Keiser, Arkansas, to the late Sandy Alexander Robinson, Sr., and Babe Rose*
25 *(Cole) Robinson; and also preceding him in death were his brothers Colie*
26 *Robinson and John Robinson, and his sisters, Jessie Culberson and Catherine*
27 *McIntosh; and*

28
29 *WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson was reared as a farmer of cotton, soybeans, and*
30 *corn; and his elementary and high school years were at Carson Lake School and*
31 *Rosenwald High School; and*

32
33 *WHEREAS, while serving in the United States Army, his commanding*
34 *officer, Lieutenant Hood, was killed in action and he was ordered to take his*
35 *place without recognition or promotion in rank; was later transferred to Fort*
36 *Reynolds, Pennsylvania, and was the first African-American drill sergeant of*



1 *his unit; and upon his honorable discharge, he received a WWII Victory*
2 *Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, American Theatre Ribbon, KAME Theatre Ribbon, and*
3 *three (3) Bronze Stars; and*

4

5 *WHEREAS, his college educational background includes being a graduate*
6 *of Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, Mississippi; Shorter*
7 *College in Little Rock, Arkansas; Alabama College in Huntsville, Alabama;*
8 *Christian Brothers College in Memphis, Tennessee; Arkansas State University*
9 *in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas; and*
10 *Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he received a*
11 *degree as a certified mortician and where he met his future wife; and*

12

13 *WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson accepted Christ into his life at an early age at*
14 *Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church and later joined Gospel Temple*
15 *Church in Luxora, Arkansas, under the leadership of Pastor Lawrence Haley,*
16 *where he has served on the Board of Trustees; was an active member of Gospel*
17 *Temple until his health began to fail; and was also a member of Kappa Alpha*
18 *Psi; and*

19

20 *WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson married the love of his life, Mary L. Mabins, on*
21 *March 22, 1952, and to this union they were blessed with two (2) children;*
22 *and*

23

24 *WHEREAS, in 1952, he was employed by the Keiser Public School District*
25 *and managed with four (4) small rooms and three (3) teachers, including*
26 *himself; was the principal, teacher, bus driver, and janitor; the school went*
27 *only to the eighth grade; because of segregation, once the eighth grade was*
28 *completed, African-American students in Keiser were finished with school with*
29 *no further educational opportunities; and he took it upon himself to add the*
30 *ninth grade without the proper books or equipment but based solely on his*
31 *knowledge; and*

32

33 *WHEREAS, after years of seeing the plight of African-American students*
34 *and their lack of opportunity to further their education, Mr. Robinson fought*
35 *hard to have students completing the eighth grade to be allowed to transfer*
36 *to a neighboring school in Wilson, Arkansas; he would get up every morning at*

1 5:00 a.m. to pick up all the students in rural areas and in town; in the old
2 overcrowded, used bus, he would drop off the students at Keiser and then
3 drive to Wilson to drop off the older students; in the afternoon he would
4 drive back to Wilson and back to Keiser, repeating this same routine every
5 day; and he would not arrive home sometimes until 5:30 or 6:00 in the
6 evening; and

7

8 WHEREAS, in 1962, the four-room school burned completely to the ground,
9 leaving students without a place for their education; nevertheless, Mr.
10 Robinson would still get up morning after morning to take the other students
11 to Wilson; with no other alternative and without help from the school board,
12 he petitioned the local African-American ministers of the Baptist Church and
13 the Church of God in Christ in Keiser to allow them to continue their classes
14 in the churches; this continued until the new three-room all-brick building
15 was completed; and by 1966, school segregation in Keiser had ended and Mr.
16 Robinson was no longer the principal and the janitor but still remained as
17 the teacher, bus driver, and advocate for higher learning for African-
18 American students; and

19

20 WHEREAS, in 1987 after thirty-seven (37) years of teaching, Mr.
21 Robinson retired from Keiser Public School district, as his task had been
22 completed; had it not been for his fight for higher education for African-
23 American students, many of them would not have gone on to become doctors,
24 lawyers, administrators, teachers, ministers, and much more; even today many
25 of his students, both African-American and white, still honor him as being
26 the most influential and instrumental teacher in their lives; and

27

28 WHEREAS, Sandy will be best remembered by many family members and
29 friends, including his wife of fifty-eight (58) years, nine (9) months, and
30 seventeen (17) days, Mary L. Robinson; one (1) daughter, Vickie Pugh-
31 Richardson; one (1) son, Vonzell (Phyllis) Robinson; nine (9) grandchildren,
32 Arthur Pugh, Corey Pugh, Vonzell Smith, Candace Smith, Torthell Robinson,
33 Jamal Robinson, Brandon Robinson, Antjuan Robinson, and Marcus Virgies; five
34 (5) great-grandchildren, including Robin Pugh; one (1) sister, Louise Dickens
35 of Talladega, Alabama; one (1) brother, Carl (Betty) Robinson of Detroit,
36 Michigan; four (4) sisters-in-law, Martha Moore, Pearlina Myles, Cloteria

1 *(Willie) Brown, and Wilma Mabins; and a host of loving nieces, nephews,*
2 *cousins, and friends,*

3

4 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-
5 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

6

7 THAT the House of Representatives remembers Mr. Sandy Alexander
8 Robinson and commends him for his contributions to the State of Arkansas and
9 *his local community.*

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the House of
12 Representatives hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Mr.
13 Robinson, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be
14 provided to the family of Mr. Robinson by the Chief Clerk of the House of
15 Representatives.

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17 */s/Clemmer*

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