

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

SMR 5

4
5 By: Senator K. Ingram

6
7 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

8 RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MR. ISADORE BANKS MADE
9 TO THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN CRITTENDEN
10 COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

11
12
13 **Subtitle**

14 RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MR. ISADORE
15 BANKS MADE TO THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN
16 COMMUNITY IN CRITTENDEN COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

17
18
19 WHEREAS, Mr. Isadore Banks was born on July 15, 1895; and

20
21 WHEREAS, in 1917, at the age of 22, Mr. Banks joined the United States
22 Army during World War I and he served until he was honorably discharged in
23 1919; and

24
25 WHEREAS, Mr. Banks was hired by Arkansas Power and Light Company in the
26 1920s and assisted in bringing electricity to Marion, Arkansas; and

27
28 WHEREAS, during a time when racial tension ran high, Mr. Banks became a
29 respected leader, Freemason, and one of the most successful farmers and
30 businessmen in Crittenden County, Arkansas; and

31
32 WHEREAS, Mr. Banks was a inspiration to the African-American community
33 in Crittenden County, owning hundreds of acres of farmland and providing jobs
34 for many; and

35
36 WHEREAS, Mr. Banks farmed cotton and helped form a black-owned cotton



1 gin business in the 1940s; and

2
3 WHEREAS, Mr. Banks was generous with his wealth, providing supplies for
4 the black school in Sunset, Arkansas, and loans to other black farmers to buy
5 seed and farm equipment; and

6
7 WHEREAS, nearly five (5) decades after his death, Mr. Banks was given
8 military honors in recognition of his service in World War I and shortly
9 thereafter Masonic rites were performed; and

10
11 WHEREAS, at 6'1" and 300 lbs, Mr. Banks is remembered by his family and
12 friends as the "giant silent man" who never turned down anyone in need,

13
14 NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
16 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

17
18 THAT the Senate recognizes Isadore Banks' contribution to the African-
19 American community in Crittenden County, Arkansas.

20
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon its adoption a copy of this resolution
22 should be presented to the family of Mr. Isadore Banks.