

House Resolution 1272

By: Representative Thomas of the 56<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mamie King Chalmers; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mamie King Chalmers was born on June 19, 1941, in Birmingham, Alabama,  
3 a beloved daughter of Berry and Mattie King; and

4 WHEREAS, inspired by the racial injustices her family had experienced and the words of  
5 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during a 1963 meeting, Ms. Chalmers responded to her calling  
6 and joined the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, becoming an active  
7 demonstrator, member, participant, and organizer in the Civil Rights Movement; and

8 WHEREAS, always in the forefront of the protests, Ms. Chalmers suffered attacks of police  
9 brutality and police dogs, was often jailed, and was specifically targeted by Public Safety  
10 Chief Eugene "Bull" Connors; and

11 WHEREAS, on May 3, 1963, Chief Connors sent the police dogs after her, cornered her, and  
12 had the fire department turn their hoses on her, the immense pressure of which made her deaf  
13 in one ear; and

14 WHEREAS, a photographer captured this encounter on May 3, sparking national attention  
15 and support for the Civil Rights Movement, yet someone else claimed to be the woman being  
16 brutalized in the photograph; and

17 WHEREAS, with the help of her daughter, LaSuria, Ms. Chalmers eventually gained  
18 recognition for being the woman in the famous photograph and has since continued her  
19 activism for freedom; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Chalmers was honored by Mayor William Bell and the Birmingham City  
21 Council in 2013 when they presented her with the Key to the City.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
23 the members of this body recognize Mamie King Chalmers for her tireless work in the Civil  
24 Rights Movement and wish her continued health and happiness.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
26 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
27 Mamie King Chalmers.