

By: Senator K. Ingram

## **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

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

### **Subtitle**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



gin business in the 1940s; and

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE,

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

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

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