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SJR___ DESIGNATING JOHN WADE KEYES AS ONE OF ALABAMA'S FIRST
VETERANS.

WHEREAS, Alabama is currently home to approximately
324,000 veterans of the United States military; and

WHEREAS, Alabamians who have been veterans of the
nation's armed forces are often honored for having performed
the highest duty of United States citizenship; and

WHEREAS, this critical civic duty was performed
initially by those who served in the Continental Army and
state militias during the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, these first American veterans sacrificed
blood and treasure to establish the constitutional republic
of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,220 of these Revolutionary
War Patriots had an association with Alabama after the War;
and

WHEREAS, one of these Patriots who is now buried in
the historic section of the city cemetery in Athens,
Alabama, served in one of the first ten rifle companies
created by the Second Continental Congress in June 1775; and

WHEREAS, research and documentation substantiate the
claim that this Revolutionary War veteran and his unit
undertook a 600-mile march to join General Washington at the
outset of hostilities with the British; and

WHEREAS, his early service predates by a year the



29 Declaration of Independence of 1776; and

30 WHEREAS, a recent assessment of other Revolutionary
31 War Veterans indicated that no other Continental Army
32 veteran with an association to Alabama had prior service;
33 now therefore,

34 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
35 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That John Wade Keyes of Limestone
36 County is highly honored and recognized as one of Alabama's
37 first veterans of the armed forces of the United States of
38 America.