

1 HJR19  
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3 By Representative Pringle  
4 RFD: Rules  
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8 POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING ALABAMA NATIVE AND  
9 INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ARTIST, WILLIAM A. CHRISTENBERRY,  
10 JR., AS THE ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL ARTIST OF THE YEAR FOR 2017.  
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12 WHEREAS, it is a privilege to posthumously honor  
13 Alabama native William A. (Bill) Christenberry, Jr., for his  
14 lifelong achievement as a visual artist, educator, an advocate  
15 for the State of Alabama; and

16 WHEREAS, Bill Christenbery achieved a level of  
17 respect, honor, and fame throughout the world for his thematic  
18 focus on his native state's landscape, buildings, signs,  
19 cemeteries, and southern traditions; and

20 WHEREAS, Bill Christenberry was born November 5,  
21 1936, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, as the son and grandson of  
22 native Alabamians from Perry and Hale Counties, whose parents  
23 and grandparents passed down a creative lineage of carving,  
24 building, needlework, storytelling, and documenting their  
25 lives; and

26 WHEREAS, Bill Christenberry exhibited his  
27 photographs, drawings, sculptures, and prints in galleries and

1 major art museums throughout the world during his 60-year  
2 career; and

3 WHEREAS, he served as a dedicated art educator and  
4 professor at universities and art schools in Alabama,  
5 Tennessee, Mississippi, and Washington, D.C., for over 50  
6 years; and

7 WHEREAS, he was awarded various grants and  
8 distinctions in Alabama, nationally, and internationally,  
9 including the Lyndhurst Foundation Prize (1982); the John  
10 Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship (1984); the Alabama Prize  
11 (1989); an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from The  
12 University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa (1998); artist in residence  
13 at Dartmouth College (2003); and Weil Fellowship at Auburn  
14 University (2005); and

15 WHEREAS, Bill Christenberry's famed photographic  
16 images, sculptures, and drawings of his native state and the  
17 South have inspired generations of young artists, writers, and  
18 scholars to explore, and express Alabama's visual landscape  
19 and cultural heritage; and

20 WHEREAS, Bill Christenberry's lifelong dedication to  
21 the arts, education, and his Alabama roots has inspired  
22 countless generations to cherish and explore both this place,  
23 their own native homes, peoples, and traditions; now  
24 therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
26 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That William A. Christenberry, Jr.,  
27 is posthumously honored and commended and named the Alabama

1       Bicentennial Artist of the Year for 2017, and this resolution  
2       is offered to his family and native state in highest tribute  
3       to his memory and artistic legacy.