

1 HR113  
2 218240-1  
3 By Representative Sanderford  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 02-MAR-22

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8 COMMENDING MR. BILLY ORTON FOR PROFESSIONAL  
9 ACHIEVEMENTS.

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11 WHEREAS, it is a pleasure to extend highest  
12 commendations to Mr. Billy Orton for his many professional  
13 achievements and unwavering dedication; and

14 WHEREAS, Kentucky native Mr. Orton has been serving  
15 as the Minister of Music and Worship at First Baptist Church  
16 in Huntsville, Alabama, since August 1998, administering a  
17 growing program of music ministries that encompasses choirs,  
18 instrumental groups, bands, ensembles, master classes, and an  
19 artists series; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Orton is a man of a plethora of  
21 impressive accomplishments, including, but not limited to,  
22 graduating with highest honors from Western Kentucky  
23 University, where he was the recipient of the Ogden Award,  
24 which is given to the student with the top academic record,  
25 and from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he  
26 was Vice President of his graduating class; being recognized  
27 as a leader in all levels in music ministry, which are

1 associational, statewide, and nationally; organizing and  
2 leading numerous music mission tours across the nation, as  
3 well as to parts of the world as diverse as Russia, Germany,  
4 Zimbabwe, and Canada; having his choir and orchestra be the  
5 first evangelical church music group to perform at the famed  
6 Tchaikovsky Hall of the Moscow Conservatory of Music in  
7 Russia; helping launch the Columbia Institute of Fine Arts, a  
8 school that has continued to grow and which recently  
9 celebrated its 25th Anniversary; having his musical groups  
10 perform at the White House and the National Cathedral; being  
11 elected President of the Kentucky Baptist Music Association;  
12 being invited to teach at major church music conferences, such  
13 as Ridgecrest Music Week; being elected National Vice  
14 President for the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference,  
15 where he also served on the organization's council for several  
16 years; being the Artistic Director Emeritus for the Huntsville  
17 Community Chorus Association, an arts organization that he led  
18 from 2002 to 2018; serving as the Chorus Master for the  
19 Huntsville Symphony Orchestra; serving as a bass trombonist  
20 for various groups, including Redstone Brass, the Rocket City  
21 Jazz Orchestra, and Huntsville's In the Mood Swing Band;  
22 writing for The Church Musician magazine and The Music Leader,  
23 both denominational publications; and writing several articles  
24 which were included in a new book written and compiled by Tim  
25 Sharp, "Sacred Choral Music Repertoire: Insights for  
26 Conductors"; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Orton and his wife, Jane Orton, have  
2           been married since August 12, 1978, after growing up together  
3           in their hometown of Greenville, Kentucky; Mrs. Orton has been  
4           a respected leader in the field of mental health in each city  
5           and state where the Ortons have lived and served; Mr. Orton  
6           considers himself the luckiest man in the world to be married  
7           to the love of his life, his childhood sweetheart, and a true  
8           angel; Mr. and Mrs. Orton have two adult children, three  
9           grandsons, and one granddaughter; Mr. Orton loves introducing  
10          and playing sports with his grandchildren, as he is an avid  
11          player and fan of sports, his favorite being basketball; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Orton's life in music ministry can be  
13          attributed to following the call of God upon his life to  
14          develop talents and skills given by the Lord to be used in the  
15          service of others through the ministries of the church; a  
16          remarkable and talented man with a steadfast commitment to  
17          serving others, Mr. Orton continues to be a blessing in the  
18          lives of many; now therefore,

19           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
20          THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Mr. Billy Orton is heartily  
21          commended for his many professional achievements and  
22          unwavering dedication, and this resolution hereby serves as a  
23          tribute to him with warmest gratitude and admiration, along  
24          with sincere best wishes for continued happiness and success  
25          during his retirement.