

1 HR173
2 200141-1
3 By Representatives Isbell, Lipscomb, Brown (K) and Nordgren
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 30-APR-19

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8 COMMENDING THE HONORABLE WILLIAM HENRY RHEA, III,
9 FOR OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

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11 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that
12 William Henry (Bill) Rhea, III, is recognized for outstanding
13 professional achievement on the occasion of his retirement and
14 32 years of service as Judge of Alabama's Sixteenth Judicial
15 Circuit; and

16 WHEREAS, Judge Rhea is a native of Gadsden, Alabama,
17 and is a 1968 graduate of Gadsden High School; he earned a
18 bachelor's degree in business from the Culverhouse School of
19 Business and Commerce at The University of Alabama; he earned
20 a Juris Doctorate from the Farrah School of Law at The
21 University of Alabama in 1975; he served six years in the
22 National Guard as a Specialist in Headquarters Company from
23 1970 to 1976; and

24 WHEREAS, he practiced law with his father and
25 brothers for 11 years; while practicing law, he served local
26 communities in several capacities as city attorney for

1 Attalla, Reece City, Steele, and Hokes Bluff and as a
2 municipal judge for Glencoe; and

3 WHEREAS, Judge Rhea was appointed as judge of the
4 Sixteenth Judicial Circuit by Governor George C. Wallace in
5 1987; he was elected to the bench in 1988 and re-elected
6 without opposition in 1994, 2000, 2006, and 2012; he served
7 the people of Gadsden, Etowah County, and Alabama's Sixteenth
8 Judicial Circuit as judge for 32 years, retiring in January
9 2019, as the second longest serving circuit judge in the State
10 of Alabama; and

11 WHEREAS, during his judicial career, Judge Rhea
12 served as president of the Alabama Circuit Judges Association;
13 he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys
14 and Girls Club of Northeast Alabama; he is a member of Kiwanis
15 International and the Gadsden Quarterback Club and has served
16 his community in many other service groups; he was recognized
17 by the Patriot's Association as Patriot of the Year in 2009,
18 and has been honored by the Boy Scouts for his civic
19 leadership; and

20 WHEREAS, Judge Rhea is a lifelong member of Attalla
21 First United Methodist Church and has faithfully served as
22 Sunday school teacher, Lay Leader, and member of the
23 Administrative Board; and

24 WHEREAS, he is married to Dr. Teresa Rhea, Dean of
25 Enrollment and Retention at Gadsden State Community College;
26 they have two children, Laney Rhea Eskridge (Marshall) and

1 William Rhea, IV, and two grandchildren, Margaret and Joseph
2 Eskridge; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That William Henry Rhea, III, is
5 commended for his outstanding professional achievements and
6 recognized on the occasion of his retirement as Judge of
7 Alabama's Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; it is directed that
8 Judge Rhea receive a copy of this resolution as an expression
9 of sincere personal regard and with best wishes for a
10 rewarding and gratifying retirement.