

1 HR173  
2 212249-1  
3 By Representatives Pringle, Gaston, Bracy, Clarke, Simpson,  
4 McMillan, Drummond, Jones (S), Brown (C) and Stringer  
5 RFD:  
6 First Read: 01-APR-21

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 COMMENDING DR. TONY G. WALDROP FOR OUTSTANDING  
9 PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

10  
11 WHEREAS, the Alabama House and Senate seek to  
12 recognize exceptional leaders who have improved the lives of  
13 Alabamians, and who have distinguished themselves through  
14 their professional contributions; and

15 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that Dr.  
16 Tony G. Waldrop faithfully and honorably served the state and  
17 the University of South Alabama during a seven-year  
18 presidency; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Waldrop was named as the third  
20 president of the University of South Alabama on February 2,  
21 2014; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Waldrop organized the University of  
23 South Alabama's future around five priorities for success;  
24 student access and success, enhancement of research and  
25 graduate education, excellence in health care, global  
26 engagement, and University-Community engagement; the

1 University of South Alabama has measured progress in each of  
2 these categories; and

3 WHEREAS, under Dr. Waldrop's leadership, the  
4 University of South Alabama has enrolled the highest achieving  
5 freshman classes in its history and improved academic  
6 advising, academic facilities, housing, and student life, all  
7 leading to higher retention and graduation rates; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Waldrop launched the Pathway USA  
9 partnership with regional community colleges, opened USA's  
10 Honor College, and closed out a capital campaign that raised  
11 more the \$160 million for scholarships, fellowships,  
12 equipment, and facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Waldrop streamlined international  
14 initiatives under Global USA and increased the number of  
15 students participating in study abroad programs, expanding  
16 educational opportunities, and preparing students for a global  
17 workforce; and

18 WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama, under Dr.  
19 Waldrop's leadership, has responded to business and industry  
20 needs by adding graduate programs and, in 2020, grew its  
21 research awards to more than \$100 million; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Waldrop oversaw a significant expansion  
23 of USA Health, which, during his presidency, added dozens of  
24 new physicians and practices to its roster of providers,  
25 expanding and improving options for patients across Coastal  
26 Alabama; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Waldrop and his wife, Dr. Julee  
2 Waldrop, have played active civic roles in South Alabama, and  
3 have encouraged the University of South Alabama community to  
4 do the same, including through the creation of the Office of  
5 Community Involvement; and

6           WHEREAS, in recent years the University of South  
7 Alabama has added and enhanced facilities, improving both  
8 infrastructure and aesthetics, including construction of the  
9 MacQueen Alumni Center, Simulation Lab Building, Fanny Meisler  
10 Trauma Center, and Hancock Whitney Stadium; and

11           WHEREAS, Dr. Waldrop has announced his retirement  
12 effective Summer 2021, as he and Dr. Julee Waldrop plan to  
13 move back to North Carolina, where she has accepted a position  
14 at Duke University as assistant dean for the School of  
15 Nursing; now therefore,

16           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
17 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Dr. Waldrop is highly honored  
18 and commended for his dedicated service to the University of  
19 South Alabama and to the State of Alabama, and this resolution  
20 is given in deepest admiration and appreciation, and along  
21 with sincere best wishes for all future endeavors.