

1 HR279
2 219253-2
3 By Representative McCutcheon
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 06-APR-22

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8 RECOGNIZING MAYOR BURWELL LEE WILBANKS OF MADISON,
9 ALABAMA, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE.

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11 WHEREAS, it is a distinct privilege to recognize and
12 extend our highest commendations to Mr. Burwell Lee "Sonny"
13 Wilbanks, longtime Mayor of Madison, Alabama, for his service
14 to his community and the State of Alabama; and

15 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilbanks began service to the City of
16 Madison in 1969 and served in this important position until
17 September 1988; prior to serving as Mayor, he served in the
18 United States Navy from 1950-1952; upon returning, he enrolled
19 in the Florence State Teachers College, now The University of
20 North Alabama, and he studied engineering at Auburn
21 University; Mayor Wilbanks worked as an engineer at NASA in
22 the Saturn Instrument Group, where he made two presentations
23 to Wernher von Braun and conducted meetings with top-level
24 scientists; he married Jane Bradley in 1958; Mayor Wilbanks
25 has a daughter, Jane Ellen Kennedy (Alan) and son, Brian
26 Wilbanks (Emily); he has three grandchildren, Drew, Brian,
27 Jr., and Grace Ann; and

1 WHEREAS, during his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Wilbanks
2 faced infrastructure demands, annexation threats, and
3 quality-of-life improvements for a small town posed to become
4 a city; during his administration, a high school was added,
5 Hughes Road was widened, a branch library was opened, the
6 first full-time firefighters were hired, the North Alabama Gas
7 District was founded, Madison's tax base was preserved with
8 the addition of Interstate 565, and the Huntsville annexation
9 was victoriously opposed, maintaining the City of Madison's
10 identity; and

11 WHEREAS, among his many services and achievements,
12 Mayor Wilbanks was instrumental in securing land and building
13 Madison's much needed second fire station on Hughes Road,
14 resulting in doubling the firefighter crew and equipment
15 inventory; and

16 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilbanks has faithfully and
17 selflessly served the citizens of Madison, Alabama, for many
18 years, making significant and lasting improvements to the
19 city; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
21 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we recognize and highly
22 commend Mr. Burwell Lee "Sonny" Wilbanks, longtime Mayor of
23 Madison, Alabama, and by copy of this resolution, we extend to
24 him our highest tribute and deepest admiration, along with
25 best wishes in all future endeavors.