

HR283 INTRODUCED



1 WBSD9E-1
2 By Representative Ledbetter
3 RFD:
4 First Read: 06-Jun-23
5 2023 Regular Session



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HR_____ COMMENDING RANDY OWEN FOR SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, with special pleasure and great pride, we honor and commend Randy Owen for his work and dedication to making the lives of others better, especially those in the State of Alabama, through music and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's favorite son, Randy Owen, was born in Fort Payne on December 13, 1949, and from a young age, he lived and worked on his family farm on Lookout Mountain, which he still owns and works; and

WHEREAS, after high school graduation, Randy attended and graduated from Jacksonville State University with a degree in English; he proudly serves Jacksonville State University as a member of the Board of Trustees; he assisted with the completion of the university's Little River Canyon Center, a green facility that houses the Little River Field School and the National Park Service; in late 2023, there will be a groundbreaking ceremony on a new performing arts facility that will bear his name, the Randy Owen Performing Arts Center, which will have space for a recital hall, recording studio, classrooms, support spaces, administrative offices, and a concert hall that seats 1,000; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the most successful country band in music history, Alabama, Randy Owen has used his fame



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29 to serve others; he is the founder of Country Cares for St.
30 Jude Kids, which has raised more than \$800 million for
31 cancer research; his band, Alabama, founded June Jam in 1982
32 to raise money for charity and has attracted the biggest
33 names in country music to perform at the festival, which has
34 been brought back this year after a 26-year hiatus; the June
35 Jam Foundation has raised over \$15 million for various
36 charities; he also supports Alabama Sheriffs Boys Ranch
37 summer camps and raises money for relief from severe weather
38 events, including tornadoes and hurricanes that have
39 devastated Alabama communities; and

40 WHEREAS, Randy uses his influence for important
41 public issues, having recorded public service commercials
42 supporting Amendment 1 on the May 24, 2022, primary ballot
43 that supports Alabama State Parks; and he urged Alabama
44 residents to participate in the 2020 Federal Census so that
45 our state could benefit from the funding that an accurate
46 census could provide; and

47 WHEREAS, the music industry's leading foundation that
48 funds innovative cancer research for a cure, the T.J.
49 Martell Foundation, recognized the members of Alabama for
50 their own charitable works for cancer research by bestowing
51 the Tony Martell Lifetime Entertainment Achievement Award in
52 2018; some of the many acknowledgments and honors that Randy
53 Owen has been awarded include the Country Music Association
54 Foundation Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2019; the
55 prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2008; for his
56 continued support, St. Jude presented him with the Michael



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57 F. Tamer Award; and

58 WHEREAS, Randy married his wife, Kelly, in 1975, and
59 their union was blessed with three children; now therefore,

60 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
61 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we highly honor Randy Owen for
62 his compassionate support of his community, his state, and
63 his country through his many charitable works, and this
64 resolution is proudly offered to him as evidence of our high
65 esteem and with best wishes for continued prosperity.