

1 HJR394
2 193111-2
3 By Representative Mooney
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 13-MAR-18

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 RECOGNIZING DEVIQUE MCWILLIAMS ON HIS SELECTION AS A
4 2018 YOUNG HERO OF ALABAMA.

5
6 WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations
7 are herein proudly presented to Devique McWilliams on his
8 outstanding achievement of being selected as a 2018 Young Hero
9 of Alabama; and

10 WHEREAS, the Young Heroes Program, presented by
11 Alabama Public Television, recognizes students in grades 9-12
12 who have excelled in academics, given of themselves through
13 public service, overcome adversity, or inspired others through
14 deeds and strength of character; and

15 WHEREAS, Devique is a student at W.P. Davidson High
16 School in Mobile, Alabama; he has experienced unimaginable
17 struggles throughout his life, as early as being diagnosed
18 with meningitis at only six weeks old, an inflammation of the
19 membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord; his doctors
20 did not expect him to live, but Devique demonstrated his inner
21 strength and survived the illness; and

22 WHEREAS, his speech and learning abilities were
23 delayed due to his condition, and he did not begin talking
24 until he was six years old, with his doctors diagnosing him
25 with autism and recommending him for special classes; his

1 parents declined the offer, convinced he would catch up, and
2 he did, quickly surpassing many students his age in academics
3 and receiving admiration from his teachers who believe he has
4 used his struggles in childhood to motivate him toward a
5 brighter future; and

6 WHEREAS, Devique's mother and stepfather work hard
7 to provide for the family and Devique works part-time to help
8 out with his family while maintaining a 3.5 grade point
9 average at school and participating in the Naval Junior
10 Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC), attending meetings
11 and NJROTC practices to instill knowledge, good character, and
12 healthy lifestyle habits in the cadets while setting his own
13 monthly program goals for personal improvement; and

14 WHEREAS, he holds a significant role in his
15 fraternity, the Alpha Elites, an organization that visits
16 churches, nursing homes, and colleges and helps with community
17 projects and serving the needy; and

18 WHEREAS, quitting was never an option for Devique
19 and his will to live and determination to overcome his
20 obstacles have been inspiring to all of those who know him;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, a worthy role model for countless young
23 Alabamians, Devique espouses the meritorious characteristics
24 of the Young Heroes Program, and he is truly deserving of
25 special commendation and praise; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Devique McWilliams is honored
3 and commended, and this resolution is offered to him in
4 highest tribute and with heartiest congratulations, as well as
5 in sincere best wishes for continued success in all future
6 endeavors.

