

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

8 RECOGNIZING DEVIQUE MCWILLIAMS ON HIS SELECTION AS A
9 2018 YOUNG HERO OF ALABAMA.
10

11 WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations
12 are herein proudly presented to Devique McWilliams on his
13 outstanding achievement of being selected as a 2018 Young Hero
14 of Alabama; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, his speech and learning abilities were
2 delayed due to his condition, and he did not begin talking
3 until he was six years old, with his doctors diagnosing him
4 with autism and recommending him for special classes; his
5 parents declined the offer, convinced he would catch up, and
6 he did, quickly surpassing many students his age in academics
7 and receiving admiration from his teachers who believe he has
8 used his struggles in childhood to motivate him toward a
9 brighter future; and

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

18 WHEREAS, he holds a significant role in his
19 fraternity, the Alpha Elites, an organization that visits
20 churches, nursing homes, and colleges and helps with community
21 projects and serving the needy; and

22 WHEREAS, quitting was never an option for Devique
23 and his will to live and determination to overcome his
24 obstacles have been inspiring to all of those who know him;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, a worthy role model for countless young
27 Alabamians, Devique espouses the meritorious characteristics

1 of the Young Heroes Program, and he is truly deserving of
2 special commendation and praise; now therefore,

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