

1 HR131
2 116794-1
3 By Representatives Barton, Ison and Fincher
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 21-JAN-10

1 116794-1:n:01/19/2010:HLI/hli LRS2010-447

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8 CONGRATULATING CHRISTINE WHITELEY ON RECEIVING
9 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD.

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11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Christine Whiteley was named Citizen
12 of the Year by the Tillman's Corner Chamber of Commerce; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Whiteley has faced many obstacles in
14 her life and overcome them with fierce determination, hard
15 work, and dedication; and

16 WHEREAS, upon learning that her two-year-old son,
17 Brian, had survived Spinal Meningitis only to be left
18 profoundly deaf by the experience, Mrs. Whiteley took her son
19 to the Mobile Rehab Center, where she and Brian learned sign
20 language together; and

21 WHEREAS, unwilling to enroll her son in a boarding
22 school for the deaf, Mrs. Whiteley and her family relocated to
23 Atlanta, leaving behind the lives they had built, so that
24 Brian could attend an elementary school for the deaf and still
25 live at home; while in Atlanta, Mrs. Whiteley enrolled in a
26 community college, where she studied Interpretation for the
27 Deaf; she applied her skills while employed as an Interpreter

1 in the Atlanta Public School System, where Brian was able to
2 attend a hearing high school and enjoy all the experiences
3 that any other teenager would; and

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Whiteley worked closely with other
5 parents and Members of the Alabama Legislature to obtain
6 funding for smaller classes and other benefits for deaf
7 students; she and others were instrumental in establishing the
8 school for the deaf and blind at Baker School; the school has
9 since been transferred to the Regional School for the Deaf and
10 Blind; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Whiteley has dedicated her life to
12 making a difference in the lives of the deaf community; she
13 has taught night classes, so that families of deaf individuals
14 could learn sign language; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Whiteley, whose father passed away
16 from lung cancer, has been very involved with the fund-raising
17 and other efforts of the American Cancer Society; she has
18 served in a variety of offices with the Society and has worked
19 closely with schools, to encourage students to participate in
20 the study of cancer at a young age; Mrs. Whiteley has spent
21 many hours working with the Relay for Life campaign; now
22 therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
24 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the heartiest congratulations
25 are extended to Mrs. Christine Whiteley for receiving the
26 Tillman's Corner Citizen of the Year Award, and this
27 resolution is offered with highest tribute and deepest

1 appreciation to her, on the momentous occasion of being
2 honored by her fellow citizens whose love and esteem she has
3 earned.