

1 HJR643
2 120309-1
3 By Representative Thomas (J)
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 23-MAR-10

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8 RECOGNIZING BRUCE PORTERFIELD.
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10 WHEREAS, it is a privilege to extend highest
11 commendation to an extraordinary Alabamian, Bruce Porterfield,
12 in recognition of his outstanding achievements while
13 overcoming adversity; and

14 WHEREAS, born to Daisy M. Porterfield on February 2,
15 1961, in Fort Deposit, he became an outstanding
16 student-athlete, graduating from Lowndes County High School in
17 1979 and earning a football scholarship to Alabama State
18 University, where he was a three-year starter as a running
19 back; he also received honors for high academic achievements,
20 maintaining an honor student status throughout his university
21 years; and

22 WHEREAS, while attending ASU, he became a member of
23 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, and was selected to
24 receive the Guy L. Grant Award, one of the highest honors
25 available to an undergraduate member of the fraternity; and

26 WHEREAS, during his student years, he began
27 experiencing symptoms of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS),

1 also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, and was informed by
2 doctors in 1985 that the incurable disease limited his life
3 expectancy to no more than three to five years; however,
4 through his devout faith and the strength of his
5 determination, along with the support of family and friends,
6 he has beaten the odds and survived for more than 20 years
7 longer than the maximum life expectancy; and

8 WHEREAS, a first-class athlete since grade school,
9 his skills and talent while at ASU provided him the
10 opportunity to sign on as a free agent to play in the NFL with
11 the Saint Louis Cardinals, before his body began to be
12 affected by ALS; and

13 WHEREAS, despite the effects of ALS, he is blessed
14 with a strong mind and indomitable spirit, and he remains
15 active in making his health care and spiritual decisions;
16 although now confined to bed, he is able to stand with support
17 from his loving family and friends; and

18 WHEREAS, every day of this inspirational life story
19 represents a miracle, and with his abiding faith, Bruce
20 Porterfield provides proof that all things are possible
21 through God, who is indeed a "Miracle Worker"; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognition of his
24 exceptional strength and courage, Bruce Porterfield is honored
25 and commended, and this resolution is offered in highest
26 tribute to him, on behalf of the citizens of the State of
27 Alabama, who hold him in great esteem and wish him well.

