

1 HJR776  
2 120837-2  
3 By Representatives Ison, Gaston, Allen, Baker (A), Baker (L),  
4 Ball, Bandy, Barton, Beasley, Beech, Bentley, Black, Boothe,  
5 Boyd, Bridges, Brown, Buskey, Canfield, Clouse, Coleman,  
6 Collier, Curtis, Davis, DeMarco, Drake, Dukes, England, Faust,  
7 Fields, Fincher, Ford, Galliher, Gipson, Gordon, Graham,  
8 Grantland, Greeson, Grimes, Guin, Hall, Hammett, Hammon,  
9 Harper, Hill, Hilliard, Hinshaw, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard,  
10 Hurst, Irons, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy, Knight, Laird,  
11 Letson, Lewis, Lindsey, Love, Martin, Mask, McAdory,  
12 McCampbell, McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin, McCutcheon,  
13 McDaniel, McLaughlin, McMillan, Millican, Mitchell, Moore (M),  
14 Moore (P), Morrow, Newton (C), Newton (D), Oden, Page, Payne,  
15 Robinson (J), Robinson (O), Rogers, Salaam, Sanderford, Scott,  
16 Sherer, Shiver, Spicer, Taylor, Thigpen, Thomas (E), Thomas  
17 (J), Todd, Treadaway, Vance, Ward, Warren, White, Williams  
18 (J), Williams (P), Wood and Wren  
19 RFD:  
20 First Read: 01-APR-10

8 HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR. EUGENE B. SLEDGE.  
9

10 WHEREAS, Eugene B. Sledge, a native of Mobile,  
11 joined the United States Marines in 1943 and served our  
12 country with courage and patriotism with the First Marine  
13 Division during the horrific battles of Peleliu and Okinawa;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, he later compiled written notes and  
16 recollections into a memoir of his military service for his  
17 family in a 300-page book, "With the Old Breed: at Peleliu and  
18 Okinawa," which was published in 1981; the book sold hundreds  
19 of thousands of copies and led to numerous editions; and

20 WHEREAS, "With the Old Breed" is now regarded as one  
21 of the foremost books in American literature about the  
22 experience of war and is recognized as a unique account of the  
23 life of an ordinary fighting soldier; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Sledge's second book, "China Marine,"  
25 published in 2002 after his death, provides a powerful and  
26 thoughtful account of American troops in their immediate  
27 post-War occupation experience, as well as describing the

1                   struggles of young soldiers who had lived through such  
2                   hardship and violence returning to the everyday world of their  
3                   fellow Americans; and

4                   WHEREAS, Dr. Sledge's work was a core element in the  
5                   highly regarded Ken Burns series on World War II and is now  
6                   being used as partial source material in a miniseries on Home  
7                   Box Office; the series, "The Pacific," tracks the intertwined  
8                   real-life stories of three Marines, including Dr. Sledge,  
9                   across the Pacific Theater of World War II; and

10                  WHEREAS, after leaving the military, Dr. Sledge  
11                  earned a Ph.D. in biology and served as a worthy role model  
12                  for his students as a professor at the University of  
13                  Montevallo for more than 28 years, where he held firmly to the  
14                  conviction that education is the key to success for our  
15                  nation's youth; and

16                  WHEREAS, as an avid bird-watcher, Dr. Sledge was  
17                  motivated by the love of the outdoors and spoke to numerous  
18                  civic and professional organizations, as well as wrote columns  
19                  for various magazines, about birds and bird-watching; and

20                  WHEREAS, Dr. Sledge's memory is cherished by  
21                  thousands of Alabamians, including the members of this body,  
22                  who honor his service to the United States of America and to  
23                  the youth of the State of Alabama; now therefore,

24                  BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
25                  HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby celebrate the life  
26                  and memory of Dr. Eugene B. Sledge and that, by copy of this

1 resolution, we extend our sincere gratitude and warm best  
2 wishes to his family.