

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.