

1 HR803
2 120791-2
3 By Representative Newton (C)
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 01-APR-10

8 COMMENDING TOMMY MORROW FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC
9 CAREER.

10
11 WHEREAS, it is a great pleasure to extend highest
12 commendation to one of Alabama's most accomplished athletes,
13 Tommy Morrow, whose football career produced record-breaking
14 statistics that have earned him a place among the nation's top
15 players, both on the collegiate and professional levels; and

16 WHEREAS, born in 1938 in Georgiana, Alabama, to Sam
17 and Ruby Morrow, he began his football career as a high school
18 senior; his athletic talent and determination to succeed were
19 immediately recognized, as he was named Most Valuable Player
20 his very first year on the gridiron and in 1956 was awarded a
21 scholarship to the University of Southern Mississippi, where
22 he began to make football history; and

23 WHEREAS, on the University of Southern Mississippi's
24 1958 National Championship Team, he carried the ball 21 times
25 for 69 yards and one touchdown, caught three passes for 48
26 yards, and led the team in punting; throughout his college
27 career he won many awards and recognitions as he continued to

1 excel in interceptions, carries, touchdowns, pass completions,
2 punting, and punt and kickoff returns; in 1970 he was inducted
3 into the University of Southern Mississippi Hall of Fame, the
4 youngest football player to be installed at the time; and

5 WHEREAS, while in college, he met his wife, Beth,
6 who was a "Dixie Darling" for the University of Southern
7 Mississippi Marching Band; they were married in 1959 and have
8 two sons, Tommy, Jr., and Scott, and a daughter Lizabeth;
9 there are two grandsons, Mitchell and Charles "Chip" Thomas;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, in 1962, Tommy Morrow joined the Oakland
12 Raiders and as a starting safety in his rookie year, he led
13 the team with 10 interceptions and made second team All-AFL;
14 in his second season, he began by intercepting passes in each
15 of the first four games, with a total of eight, setting a
16 record for interceptions that still stands today as the best
17 in the history of professional football; during the season, he
18 was selected All-Pro defensive back; and

19 WHEREAS, disaster struck in the fifth game of the
20 1963 season when he suffered a severe knee injury that
21 sidelined him for a number of games; although forced to miss a
22 large part of the season, he was selected for first team
23 All-AFL honors; after returning to the Raiders in 1964, he
24 managed four more interceptions before the damaged knee forced
25 his retirement; and

26 WHEREAS, despite his injury-shortened career of only
27 two and a half years, Tommy Morrow had 23 pass interceptions

1 and is listed in the National Football Record Book for
2 intercepting at least one pass in eight consecutive games, an
3 accomplishment that remains unsurpassed; and

4 WHEREAS, Tommy Morrow has held his own in the
5 company of some of the greatest football players in the
6 history of the game, and the outstanding career of this widely
7 admired native son is the source of justifiable pride to all
8 Alabamians; now therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
10 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That in recognition of his
11 exceptional athletic achievements, Tommy Morrow is honored and
12 commended, and this resolution is offered in highest tribute
13 to him on behalf of the citizens of the State of Alabama, who
14 hold him in great esteem.