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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 Elizabeth;  
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.