

1 HJR135
2 126553-1
3 By Representative Forte
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 22-MAR-11

8 COMMENDING HOMER NEAL LEWIS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
9 AGRICULTURE AND THE YOUTH OF ALABAMA.

10
11 WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein conveyed to
12 Homer Neal Lewis in recognition of his distinguished record of
13 contributions to agriculture and the youth of Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, born in Barbour County, Alabama, in 1922,
15 he began his college career in 1941 but interrupted his
16 education to serve with honor and distinction in the United
17 States Army in the South Pacific during World War II; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1946, he enrolled in Auburn University,
19 earning a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education in 1950
20 and a Master's Degree in 1959; his initial work was in
21 Montgomery County, where he was head of the Veterans
22 Agricultural Training Program and Vocational Agriculture
23 Teacher at Sidney Lanier High School; and

24 WHEREAS, a few years later, he returned to Auburn
25 and became a Livestock Specialist with the Alabama Department
26 of Vocational Education, a position he held for 38 years,

1 working closely with teachers in developing programs to
2 strengthen Alabama farms and ranches; and

3 WHEREAS, his principal focus was on livestock
4 improvement, and he is credited with developing and
5 implementing programs to improve the quality of Alabama beef
6 cattle and swine herds; he was a central figure in all
7 livestock events at fairs in Birmingham, Mobile, Dothan,
8 Selma, and Montgomery, where his service to the South Alabama
9 State Fair was recognized in 1986 with the naming of a barn in
10 the agricultural exhibit area in his honor; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis served as Executive Secretary for
12 the Alabama Future Farmers of America, District Supervisor of
13 Agribusiness Teachers, and Livestock Judge in shows across the
14 southeast; he also organized the Past State FFA Alumni
15 Association and was responsible for organizing the Alabama
16 Young and Adult Farmers Educational Association, serving as
17 the group's state advisor since its inception in 1979 and
18 receiving an award for Outstanding Special Service in 2009 at
19 the National Convention; and

20 WHEREAS, although he retired in 1987, Mr. Lewis has
21 continued his involvement in the activities of farm-related
22 organizations including serving on the Executive Committee of
23 the State FFA Officers Alumni Association, the FFA Career Tech
24 Committee, and the FFA Foundation, which recently honored him
25 by establishing the H.N. Lewis Scholarship Fund for 3rd and
26 4th year University students enrolled in Agriscience
27 Education; among his additional recognitions, he was inducted

1 into the Auburn University Agriculture Alumni Hall of Fame in
2 1988; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis has also been actively involved
4 with the National Peanut Festival organization in Dothan,
5 Alabama, since its inception in 1950 and was chosen as Grand
6 Marshal for its opening parade in 2009; for 20 years, he has
7 been on the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Museum at
8 Landmark Park in Dothan, and he has served on the board of the
9 Alabama Rural Rehabilitation Corporation for 15 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis and his wife, Eloise, reside in
11 his boyhood home on his farm in Barbour County, where at age
12 89 he continues to be a source of inspiration to those who are
13 fortunate to know him; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognition of a lifetime
16 of outstanding contributions to agriculture and youth in
17 Alabama, highest commendation is conveyed to Homer Neal Lewis,
18 for whom a copy of this resolution is provided as evidence of
19 the esteem of the people of the State of Alabama.