

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.