

1 HR233
2 128271-1
3 By Representatives Merrill, Poole and England
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 31-MAR-11

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8 HONORING THE LEGACY OF UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA DEAN OF
9 STUDENTS JOHN BLACKBURN.

10
11 WHEREAS, the late University of Alabama Dean of
12 Students John Blackburn was one of Alabama's most
13 distinguished educators and left an unparalleled legacy of
14 contributions to the University and to the State of Alabama;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dean Blackburn was credited with paving the
17 way for peaceful integration and acceptance of the two Black
18 students who made history when they were admitted in 1963; and

19 WHEREAS, he also impacted the lives of countless
20 students whom he mentored and inspired to excellence; and

21 WHEREAS, Dean Blackburn's leadership on the
22 University campus began in 1956 as Assistant Dean of Men, and
23 after tenures as Dean of Men and Dean of Student Development,
24 he was recruited in 1978 to become Vice President for
25 Educational Development, a position he fulfilled with
26 exceptional competence, including setting fund-raising
27 records; and

1 WHEREAS, Dean Blackburn believed that the University
2 needed to provide hands-on leadership experience in order to
3 prepare students for the future; and

4 WHEREAS, his vision was recognized in 1995 by the
5 creation of the Blackburn Institute, a student honors
6 organization devoted to developing a network of leaders, the
7 Blackburn Fellows, who have a clear understanding of the
8 challenges that face the State of Alabama; and

9 WHEREAS, among his outstanding achievements as Dean
10 of Men, he founded the Mallet Assembly in 1961 as a
11 self-governing honors dormitory that elects its own officers,
12 has its own constitution, and operates independently of UA
13 housing officials; and

14 WHEREAS, the Mallet Assembly continues to thrive
15 after five decades and is revered as one of UA's oldest honors
16 programs; and

17 WHEREAS, Mallet Assembly alumni have achieved
18 success in every profession, in the arts, in government, and
19 as researchers, entrepreneurs, and computer experts; now
20 therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That in recognition of celebrating
23 the 50th Anniversary of the Mallet Assembly, we commemorate
24 the legacy of Dean John Blackburn and, by copy of this
25 resolution to his family, we convey our highest esteem and
26 gratitude for his contributions to The University of Alabama
27 and the entire State.

