

1 HR281
2 128637-1
3 By Representative Wren
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-APR-11

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8 COMMENDING JOHN KENTON HUNT FOR ACHIEVEMENT AND
9 SERVICE.

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11 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that John
12 Kenton Hunt is recognized for his distinguished service to the
13 State of Alabama over the span of 36 years; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Hunt is retiring on July 31, 2011, from
his position with the Department of Mental Health; and

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WHEREAS, he began his employment with the Department
16 of Mental Health in 1977 as an Alcoholism Prevention
17 Coordinator and was promoted steadily, fulfilling each
18 position with exceptional competence and commitment while
19 gaining experience in all aspects of community based
20 prevention and treatment services; and

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WHEREAS, in November 1999, he was appointed as the
22 first Associate Commissioner for the Department of Mental
23 Health; and

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WHEREAS, highlights of his career include: he
25 chaired the Alabama Commission for the Prevention and
26 Treatment of Substance Abuse; served on the Board of the
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National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors as the Region IV representative and was elected Vice President for Internal Affairs; chaired the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors Annual Meeting Committee and hosted the 2008 Annual Meeting in Alabama, which brought more than 300 national substance abuse prevention and treatment experts to Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court to serve on the Drug Court Task Force in 2010 and chaired the Substance Abuse Treatment Subcommittee of the Drug Court Task Force; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Associate Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, the budget for substance abuse prevention and treatment increased by 45 percent from \$33 million to \$48 million, while state funding grew by 300 percent from \$4.2 million to \$17.7 million; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hunt managed the public substance abuse system that provides prevention and treatment services to approximately 125,000 needy Alabamians annually; and

WHEREAS, he served as the Associate Commissioner for Substance Abuse Services until January 18, 2011, when he was assigned to guide the Department in the areas of Health Care Reform and Mental Health Parity; and

WHEREAS, among his honors and recognitions, Mr. Hunt received the 2011 Carl Nowell Leadership Award, which is presented to an individual selected by peers for "Hard Work

1 and Devotion" to the field of Drug Prevention, Treatment, and
2 Recovery; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That on the occasion of his
5 retirement and in recognition of his many outstanding
6 achievements and dedicated service, highest commendation is
7 herein extended to John Kenton Hunt, for whom a copy of this
8 resolution is provided as evidence of our esteem and
9 appreciation, along with best wishes in all future endeavors.