

1 HJR387
2 152545-2
3 By Representatives Morrow and Burdine
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 30-APR-13

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8 COMMENDING THE HELEN KELLER BIRTHPLACE FOUNDATION
9 BOARD AND STAFF AND RECOGNIZING "CAMP COURAGE."

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11 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that the
12 Alabama Legislature pays tribute to the Helen Keller
13 Birthplace Foundation Board of Directors and staff for more
14 than 59 years of service dedicated to the First Lady of
15 Courage, Helen Keller, and her lifetime of commitment to
16 improving the lives of children and adults who are blind or
17 have significant visual disabilities; and

18 WHEREAS, even though Helen Keller was both blind and
19 deaf from an early age, her knowledge and skills were far
20 greater than most; and

21 WHEREAS, since 1954, the primary mission of the
22 Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation has been to showcase Helen
23 Keller's home and life story to people from around the world;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, beginning in October 2013, the first "Camp
26 Courage -- A Helen Keller Experience" will be held annually in
27 Tuscumbia, Alabama; and

1 WHEREAS, the Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation and
2 the "Camp Courage -- A Helen Keller Experience" Committee are
3 working with the American Optometric Association Foundation,
4 Optometry Cares, optometry's premier philanthropic and
5 charitable organization, which is committed to the mission of
6 expanding eye health and vision care access to everyone in the
7 nation in order to enhance human performance and quality of
8 life; and

9 WHEREAS, "Camp Courage" will invite blind or
10 severely visually impaired children to attend this camp; and

11 WHEREAS, the mission of "Camp Courage" will be to
12 offer hands-on learning experiences similar to those
13 encountered by Helen Keller from an early age and through
14 adulthood; and

15 WHEREAS, "Camp Courage" will introduce participants
16 to the arts and to nature programs wherein the children will
17 learn through senses other than sight; and

18 WHEREAS, "Camp Courage" will ultimately advance
19 these children to a higher level of achievement, both
20 academically and socially, and encourage these children to "Be
21 Like Helen"; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the Helen
24 Keller Birthplace Foundation Board of Directors and staff for
25 59 years of dedicated service and most highly commend "Camp
26 Courage -- A Helen Keller Experience," and it is directed that

1 a copy of this resolution be provided to the Foundation for
2 appropriate display, with best wishes for the future.