

1 HR198
2 168693-1
3 By Representative Ingram
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-MAY-15

8 RECOGNIZING JOHN MCWILLIAMS, III, FOR HIS
9 ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY.
10

11 WHEREAS, John McWilliams, III, is a member of the
12 United States Professional Tennis Association and the
13 Professional Tennis Registry; and

14 WHEREAS, Coach McWilliams' tennis career began at
15 A.G. Parrish High School in Selma, where he organized the
16 tennis team and played high school tennis; he studied commerce
17 and business administration at the University of Alabama,
18 where he played four years of varsity tennis and was team
19 captain; he later served as Director of Tennis at Huntingdon
20 College; and

21 WHEREAS, Coach McWilliams worked for Wilson Sporting
22 Goods in Tennis Promotion and Sales in Chicago and New York
23 City and during that time, assisted the Jack Kramer U.S. Pro
24 Tour and officiated the U.S. Davis and Wightman Cup matches;
25 he became a USTA official, serving as an umpire at many
26 national championships; he was a service linesman on Rod
27 Laver's first Grand Slam match at Forest Hills, New York in

1 1962; and had the distinction of umpiring the first
2 professional match to use the Wilson yellow tennis balls; and

3 WHEREAS, Coach McWilliams was founder of the Alabama
4 Tennis Academy, a long-running camp for boys and girls, and he
5 was inducted into the Alabama Tennis Hall of Fame in 1991; and

6 WHEREAS, 20 years ago, Coach John McWilliams decided
7 to help a local charity, the Family Sunshine Center; he
8 master-minded Tennis Across Montgomery to raise money for the
9 center and bring tennis to children who would not ordinarily
10 have the opportunity to play, explaining he wanted to "keep
11 children on the court rather than in the courts"; and

12 WHEREAS, Tennis Across Montgomery became an annual
13 event that raised several hundred thousand dollars for the
14 Family Sunshine Center; local, unrestricted funds can be used
15 to match federal dollars at a rate as high as four to one; and

16 WHEREAS, Tennis Across Montgomery is much
17 anticipated among tennis players and, in addition to raising
18 funds, raised friends for the Sunshine Center; and

19 WHEREAS, Coach John McWilliams has devoted most of
20 his life to teaching children and youth the fundamentals and
21 advanced level tennis skills and also important life lessons;
22 he has recruited others to support the tennis clinic for less
23 fortunate children; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby commend Coach John
26 McWilliams for his lifelong commitment to the Montgomery
27 community, promotion of tennis as a way to establish mentally,

1 emotionally, and physically healthy lifestyles, to securing
2 the health and welfare of young people, and to supporting the
3 Family Sunshine Center. This resolution is offered to him in
4 deepest appreciation along with sincere best wishes for
5 continued success in future endeavors.