

1 HR269
2 169651-1
3 By Representative Williams (JD)
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 21-MAY-15

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8 POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING WILLIE JAMES PERRY FOR HIS
9 SERVICE.

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11 WHEREAS, it is a great honor to posthumously commend
12 Willie James Perry, known as the "Batman of Birmingham"; in
13 the late 1970's and early 1980's a customized 1971 Thunderbird
14 could be seen on the streets of Birmingham and the man inside
15 was driving around with an uncommon devotion to the common
16 good, this was Willie James Perry, who devoted his life to
17 helping others; and

18 WHEREAS, although deserving highest praise and
19 honor, Willie Perry served others at no cost and sought no
20 accolades for his kind deeds; he provided roadside rescue
21 assistance by helping with flat tires and providing gas and
22 parts to stranded motorists, he gave rides to the elderly to
23 doctors and pharmacies, and he took children in the community
24 on free rides in the Rescue Ship; he lived by his motto that
25 was boldly posted on the Rescue Ship "Will Help Anyone In
26 Distress"; and

1 WHEREAS, a Good Samaritan who is truly deserving of
2 special recognition for his humanitarian effort, Willie Perry
3 and The Rescue Ship worked quietly to help others in need; he
4 was featured on a national television show in 1982 and that
5 same year, Michael Jackson, the "King of Pop", stopped to meet
6 Willie and view his car; and

7 WHEREAS, although Willie died in 1985, his life and
8 legacy are a permanent part of the history of Birmingham;
9 Mayor Richard Arrington designated August 3 as "Willie Perry
10 Day" in 1982 and recent efforts are being made to restore the
11 Rescue Ship, to revitalize the memory of Willie, and to
12 inspire a new generation of real life super heroes to take up
13 his mantle and make their communities better one good deed at
14 a time; and

15 WHEREAS, through the years, the efforts of Willie
16 Perry created lasting positive experiences and memories;
17 preserving and displaying the Rescue Ship is a way to preserve
18 this important piece of Birmingham's cultural history; the
19 State of Alabama, acknowledges that the legacy of Willie Perry
20 will impact generations to come; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That, for the acts of kindness
23 displayed during his lifetime and the legacy he left behind,
24 we hereby posthumously honor Willie James Perry, known as
25 "Batman of Birmingham," and direct that a copy of this
26 resolution be provided to the Birmingham City Council for

1 appropriate presentation and display as a measure of our
2 deepest gratitude and esteem.