

1 SJR79  
2 185004-1  
3 By Senators Whatley and Dial  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 11-APR-17

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8 RECOGNIZING APRIL 13, 2017, AS BENNIE ADKINS DAY.

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10 WHEREAS, we take great pride and pleasure in  
11 recognizing April 13, 2017, as Bennie Adkins Day in the State  
12 of Alabama; a native of Opelika, Alabama, Adkins was drafted  
13 into the United States Army in 1956; and

14 WHEREAS, while serving in the Special Forces,  
15 Command Sergeant Major Bennie G. Adkins served three tours in  
16 Vietnam and later led training at Fort Sherman's Jungle School  
17 in the Panama Canal Zone; after a career of distinguished  
18 service, he retired in 1978; and

19 WHEREAS, following retirement, Adkins earned  
20 multiple degrees from Troy University, established Adkins  
21 Accounting Service, Inc., serving as CEO for 22 years, and  
22 taught night classes at Southern Union Junior College and  
23 Auburn University; and

24 WHEREAS, during his distinguished service, Adkins  
25 received numerous awards and decorations including the  
26 Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal,  
27 Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct

1 Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces  
2 Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Presidential Unit  
3 Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam  
4 Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Bravery Medal, Republic of  
5 Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Combat Infantryman Badge, Special  
6 Forces Tab, U.S. Army Master Parachutist Badge, Vietnamese  
7 Parachutist Badge, Sharpshooter Badge, and Marksman Badge; and

8 WHEREAS, known for his extraordinary heroism and  
9 selflessness in close combat, Adkins demonstrated great  
10 courage rescuing wounded comrades and bringing them to a more  
11 secure position; his meritorious military career reflects  
12 great credit upon himself and his country; and

13 WHEREAS, earning widespread respect for his  
14 dedicated service and leadership, retired Command Sergeant  
15 Major Bennie G. Adkins was awarded the Congressional Medal of  
16 Honor by President Barack Obama on September 15, 2014; and

17 WHEREAS, respected by all who know him, his service  
18 to the citizens of Alabama and the United States has  
19 distinguished him as a true American Hero; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we take great pleasure in  
22 recognizing April 13, 2017, as Bennie Adkins Day in Alabama,  
23 and it is directed that a copy of this resolution be presented  
24 to him, with highest praise, appreciation, and sincere best  
25 wishes for all future endeavors.