

1 HJR106  
2 198287-2  
3 By Representative Clarke  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 09-APR-19

8 NAMING THE BRIDGE OVER PERCH CREEK IN MOBILE COUNTY  
9 THE RALPH "SONNY" MIDDLETON MEMORIAL BRIDGE.  
10

11 WHEREAS, Ralph Middleton, known to most as "Sonny,"  
12 served the citizens in the Gulf Coast region of Alabama as a  
13 businessman and conservationist; he passed away in 2017 but  
14 his legacy lives on in the community; and

15 WHEREAS, dedicated to serving his community and  
16 working diligently to make a difference, Sonny Middleton  
17 started in the family boat repair business; for over six  
18 decades he served thousands of boat owners, captains,  
19 deckhands, and anglers in Middleton Marine Engine Service, Dog  
20 River Marina, A and M Yacht Sales, Dog River Fuels and Supply,  
21 and Middleton Marine; and

22 WHEREAS, serving the marine industry with his  
23 expertise in yachting and engineering modifications, Middleton  
24 was known for his humility and Southern humor; he was a legend  
25 in the Gulf Coast fishing community; and

26 WHEREAS, Middleton was recognized with numerous  
27 professional and personal awards and accolades; the Dog River

1 Marina was named Marina of the Year in 2000, and received the  
2 first State of Alabama designation of Clean Marina; in 2012,  
3 Middleton received the Rybovich Lifetime Achievement  
4 Conservation Award by the Billfish Foundation; and in 2017,  
5 Middleton was inducted as a Gulf Legend by the Blue Marlin  
6 Grand Championship Billfish Tournament; and

7 WHEREAS, it is fitting to honor the memory of Sonny  
8 Middleton near the place where he impacted the lives of so  
9 many people by his commitment to conservation and recreation;  
10 now therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
12 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in memory of his dedication  
13 and service to the citizens of the Gulf Coast Region of  
14 Alabama, we declare that the bridge over Perch Creek in Mobile  
15 County, is named the Ralph "Sonny" Middleton Memorial Bridge.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the appropriate  
17 officials be requested to place and maintain signs or markers  
18 as provided in this resolution.