

1 HJR129
2 199353-1
3 By Representative Sanderford
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 18-APR-19

8 COMMENDING DR. ROBERT A. ALTENKIRCH FOR HIS
9 OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN
10 HUNTSVILLE.
11

12 WHEREAS, The University of Alabama in Huntsville has
13 a long history of providing academic and research programs to
14 support Redstone Arsenal and Cummings Research Park, and the
15 university is crucial for the advanced workforce development
16 and research and development activities of the Greater
17 Huntsville area and the State of Alabama; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert A. Altenkirch continued to build
19 on that history through strategic growth while serving as
20 President of The University of Alabama in Huntsville from 2011
21 to 2019; and

22 WHEREAS, The University of Alabama in Huntsville has
23 experienced record enrollment growth for five consecutive
24 years, growing to more than 10,000 students in the fall of
25 2019; and

26 WHEREAS, the average ACT score of incoming freshmen
27 at The University of Alabama in Huntsville for the fall of

1 2018 was 28.5, establishing an all-time record for the
2 university, and is the highest among Alabama's public
3 universities; and

4 WHEREAS, from an academic standpoint, The University
5 of Alabama in Huntsville has created 28 new degree programs,
6 12 bachelors', 12 masters' and four Ph.D's, during Dr.
7 Altenkirch's presidency; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Altenkirch also initiated the formation
9 of several colleges: Honors College (2014); the College of
10 Education (2015); and the College of Professional and
11 Continuing Studies (2016); and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Altenkirch led the purchase of a
13 58-acre business park adjacent to the campus; his vision for
14 the property was campus expansion, a mixed-use development,
15 and the establishment of a "town center" for The University of
16 Alabama in Huntsville; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Altenkirch established the D.S.
18 Davidson Invention-to-Innovation business incubator, a
19 regional initiative that fosters, promotes, and accelerates
20 commercialization of technology-based ventures through
21 incubation, co-working, mentorship, funding, and strategic
22 support; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Altenkirch led efforts to begin and
24 complete several construction projects on campus during his
25 tenure which include a student services building, a student
26 union building, a 400-bed residence hall, a technology

1 business incubator, and expansion to Morton Hall and the
2 nursing building, and a sorority house; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Altenkirch led the effort to secure
4 conference affiliation for UAH'S NCAA Division I Men's Ice
5 Hockey Team in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association, thus
6 saving the UAH hockey program which had been destined to be
7 discontinued; he also initiated UAH'S NCAA Division II Men's
8 and Women's Lacrosse programs in spring 2016; now therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That highest commendation is
11 conveyed to Dr. Robert A. Altenkirch in recognition of his
12 outstanding leadership and helping shape a more prosperous
13 future for The University of Alabama in Huntsville, the State
14 of Alabama and its citizens, and this resolution is offered to
15 him with deepest appreciation along with best wishes in future
16 endeavors.