

1 HR211
2 200578-1
3 By Representatives Clarke, Drummond, Brown (C), Stringer,
4 Simpson, Shiver, McMillan, Jones (S), Easterbrook, Baker,
5 Wilcox, Pringle, Gaston and Bracy
6 RFD:
7 First Read: 09-MAY-19

COMMENDING MELVIN SHOWERS FOR OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT.

WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that Melvin "Mel" Showers is recognized for outstanding professional achievement on the occasion of his retirement after 50 years of employment with WKRG News 5, Mobile's CBS affiliate station; he became a reporter for WKRG in 1969, following his service in the U.S. Air Force as a military intelligence analyst in the Far East, Middle East, and other territories; he earned a place in broadcasting history as the first African American to be named a full-time anchor of a nightly newscast in Mobile; and

WHEREAS, WKRG News 5 reaches more than 665,000 television households in seven counties in Alabama, four counties in Northwest Florida, and three counties in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jesse Grear, Vice President and General Manager of WKRG stated: "Mel Showers is beloved by people all along the Gulf Coast. Millions of viewers have watched Mel

1 over the years. From reporting on cross burnings by the KKK,
2 to the devastation brought by some of the country's most
3 powerful tropical storms and hurricanes, Mel has been the
4 voice of calm during some of the most dramatic times in
5 Alabama history"; WKRG News 5 Director, Mr. Chris Best said:
6 "Mel fought bigotry with grace and quiet dignity. Even with
7 his prominent place in Alabama broadcasting history secured,
8 Mel remains a quiet, humble gentleman who prefers to put the
9 spotlight on those around him"; and

10 WHEREAS, during his career, he has received many
11 awards, including Associated Press awards, Best Anchor awards
12 from local newspapers and magazines, and the John Harris
13 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mobile Press Club; he has
14 also received awards from civic organizations for his
15 volunteer work; he was inducted into the Alabama Broadcasters
16 Association Hall of Fame in 2015; and

17 WHEREAS, on April 25, Mr. Showers announced to
18 viewers that he will retire as WKRG's evening news anchor; his
19 last regular nightly newscast will be May 22, 2019, at WKRG
20 News 5 at 10; he will continue to contribute to WKRG News 5 as
21 "Anchor Emeritus" with occasional special reports and provide
22 his unique perspective on events impacting the Gulf Coast; now
23 therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we commend and thank Mr.
26 Melvin Showers for reporting the news with a high degree of
27 professionalism for 50 years to the viewers in the Mobile,

1 Pensacola, and Fort Walton Beach television market; it is
2 directed that a copy of this resolution be provided to him as
3 an expression of sincere personal regard and with best wishes
4 for a rewarding and gratifying retirement.