

1 HR77
2 205969-1
3 By Representatives Wilcox, Gaston and Brown (C)
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 03-MAR-20

HONORING MARIE ALEXANDRIA POIROUX WILSON WHITE ON
THE OCCASION OF HER 99TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations
are herein proudly presented to Marie Alexandria Poiroux
Wilson White on the momentous occasion of her 99th Birthday
Celebration on March 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Marie Alexandria Poiroux Wilson White was
born March 20, 1921, to August and Jeanne Poiroux; she was the
9th of 12 children; she was born three months after her family
arrived in Irvington, Alabama, from Manitoba, Canada; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. White has faced many obstacles in her
life and overcome them with fierce determination, hard work,
dedication and prayer; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. White had to learn the English
language prior to beginning school; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. White had to survive on goat's milk as
an infant as their only family cow was hit by a train and
killed; she grew up working hard on the family farm, waking at
4 a.m. to care for the animals, gather eggs, vegetables and

1 fruits, and help her mother prepare food for all the children
2 before she walked more than three miles to school daily; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. White grew up enjoying her family as
4 they would often celebrate with the neighbors dancing and
5 enjoying the wine served by her father, the son of a great
6 winemaker, who also was known to sell his products to doctors
7 during the Great Depression; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. White met her future husband, Woodrow
9 Wilson, when she was 12 years old when he went to the Poiroux
10 farm to buy goat's milk, and often stayed to help her father
11 and brothers on the farm; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1934, Mrs. White eloped with Mr. Wilson
13 when she was only 14 years old as he was going to leave for CC
14 Camp and didn't want to leave her to marry someone else; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. White began a 40-year marriage filled
16 with the joy of rearing 12 children with Woodrow Wilson; they
17 are Theresa Wilson Orrell, Doris Davis, Christine Whiteley,
18 Alvin Wilson, Larry Wilson, Julie Wilson Shewmake, Daniel
19 Wilson, Cheryl Wilson Henderson, and Eddie Wilson; she
20 suffered the loss of their children, Jeanette Anglin Wilson,
21 William Wilson, and Edmund Wilson; in addition, she lost two
22 grandchildren, Starla Huber and Gregory Huber, and a
23 great-grandchild, Brittney Anglin; she also lost her first
24 husband to cancer; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. White and her family planted and
26 harvested the fields; one year brought an early spring frost
27 and the entire family had to cover each plant in a 20-acre

1 field with newspaper, pulling dirt onto the paper to hold off
2 the strong winds; harvesting watermelons, which meant rising
3 early to load 18-wheel trucks by tossing the melons by the
4 teenage children and their cousins and friends to someone
5 catching and stacking them; dragging croaker sacks and picking
6 weightless cotton that earned a mere three cents per pound was
7 the job of Marie and the older teenagers for several seasons;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. White and her family were often moving
10 into tenant houses in the spring, due to the need to live near
11 the farm that they would work; eventually saving enough money
12 to buy a small parcel of land on Old Pascagoula Road; Woodrow
13 then worked at the shipyard and Marie and a neighbor worked to
14 build their first house; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. White never learned to drive a car,
16 but gathered her children and met her brother Maurice Poiroux
17 near the side of the road so all the children could jump in
18 his truck and ride to St. Margaret's Church in Bayou La Batre,
19 along with his large family; and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. White was able to have her children
21 attend a Catholic School due to the older children's working
22 in the school cafeteria and cleaning classrooms after classes
23 every day; and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. White has always been known for her
25 home remedies; since doctors were very scarce and money as
26 well, she was known to use a whole bottle of aspirin and a

1 quart of buttermilk to save their "Mama" hog who had just
2 given birth to a litter and was very sick; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. White learned through trial and error
4 to order, sell, and manage a convenience store that her
5 husband bought; the older children would drive her to the
6 store and catch the bus and the youngest child would stay at
7 the store all day with her; she would cook a large pot of stew
8 or beans for the older children to take home for the evening
9 meal; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. White is known as the "Yeast Roll
11 Lady" when her children and friends gather during all special
12 occasions as she will have made her French Yeast Rolls, taught
13 to her by her French mother, for all to enjoy; and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. White is especially known as a "Prayer
15 Warrior," when neighbors, friends, and fellow church members
16 need special prayers, she is always the one contacted; she
17 reserves two hours a day to watch EWTN and pray while watching
18 the Mass and praying the Rosary; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. White had a job at Vanity Fair, where
20 she worked for nine years cutting lace; it was during that
21 time that a friend introduced her to Ernie White; they were
22 married in 1979 and have just celebrated their 41st
23 anniversary; she was happy to add two more children, Junie and
24 Randy, to her big family; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. White will be celebrating her 99th
26 birthday with 162 immediate family members, 17 children and
27 spouses, 52 grandchildren, 65 great-grandchildren, 24

1 great-great-grandchildren, and two

2 great-great-great-grandchildren, as well as friends; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. White will be celebrated as the most
4 beautiful and amazing Mom, Mama, Grandma, and Maw Maw, who
5 answers to all of these names, however, her children all agree
6 that she is the best mother anyone could have asked for; and
7 no matter the hardships, the disappointments, and grief, Mrs.
8 White knows one can survive if you never lose faith; and

9 WHEREAS, a 99th Birthday Celebration is a
10 significant life milestone that represents years of memories
11 earned and wisdom gained and is a cause for great rejoicing;
12 it is a tremendous privilege to recognize such a remarkable
13 individual on her special day; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
15 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Marie Alexandria Poiroux
16 Wilson White is honored and commended on the milestone of her
17 99th Birthday Celebration, and this resolution is offered to
18 her in highest tribute, along with sincere best wishes for
19 continued prosperity.