

SJR36

COMMENDING MR. WENDELL HUDSON, THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA'S FIRST BLACK SCHOLARSHIP-ATHLETE, FOR HAVING HIS
JERSEY NUMBER RETIRED.

WHEREAS, it is a great honor to extend highest commendations to Mr. Wendell Hudson, The University of Alabama's first black scholarship-athlete, for having his jersey number retired during a ceremony at halftime of the Alabama-LSU basketball game at Coleman Coliseum; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Mr. Hudson's wishes, future Crimson Tide basketball players will still be able to wear his number 20; however, his jersey will remain displayed in the coliseum's rafters, along with banners signifying conference championships and post-season appearances; also, a men's basketball scholarship has been endowed in his honor, and the uniforms of The University of Alabama student-athletes will each feature a "WH" patch for the remainder of the winter and spring sport seasons; Mr. Hudson is one of the most decorated student-athletes in Crimson Tide men's basketball history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hudson was recruited by the late C.M. Newton after an incredible career at Parker High School in Birmingham, Alabama; during the 1969 to 1970 season, he became a member of the freshman team at The University of Alabama and joined the varsity ranks for the next three years; during his career, he scored 1,768 points and grabbed

1 1,197 rebounds in 93 games, averaging 19.0 points and 12.9
2 rebounds; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1973, Mr. Hudson was named a First
4 Team All-American after averaging 20.7 points and 12.1
5 rebounds as a senior; that same season, he became Alabama's
6 first Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, leading
7 the league in scoring; he helped the Crimson Tide secure a
8 second-place finish in the Southeastern Conference and make
9 its first postseason appearance in program history,
10 advancing to the semifinals of the National Invitation
11 Tournament; in addition, he was selected in the second round
12 of the 1973 National Basketball Association draft by the
13 Chicago Bulls and played for the American Basketball
14 Association's Memphis Tams; in 2000, he was honored as a
15 Southeastern Conference Legend and was recognized by The
16 University of Alabama with its Paul W. Bryant Alumni-Athlete
17 Award, which recognizes former athletes who accomplish
18 astounding achievements after leaving UA; in 2001, he was
19 inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Hudson remains a remarkable
21 phenomenon who inspires countless athlete-students; now
22 therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Mr. Wendell Hudson, The
25 University of Alabama's first black scholarship-athlete, is
26 warmly commended for having his jersey number retired, and
27 we hereby dedicate this resolution to him with heartiest

1 admiration, along with sincere best wishes for continued
2 success during his retirement.