

1       SJR118  
2       213767-1  
3       By Senator Scofield  
4       RFD:  
5       First Read: 29-APR-21

RECOGNIZING THE ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
SYSTEM'S MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Master Gardener Program has provided volunteer service to the Extension System and service projects in communities throughout Alabama, creating beauty and enhancing health for the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, the program was launched in 1981 by former Madison County Extension Agent, Gary Murray, after learning of the program from an Alabama transplant, Mary Lou McNabb, who participated in the Cornell University Master Gardener Program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dave Williams, former Extension Specialist and Auburn University Horticulture Professor, served as the first State Program Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Tony Glover, former Extension Home Grounds Program Leader, created the first statewide Master Gardener curriculum, conference, and Extension Agent training program; and

1           WHEREAS, 45 Extension Agents serving 52 of Alabama's  
2       counties helped establish the Master Gardener Program in their  
3       regions; and

4           WHEREAS, Master Gardeners have provided service to  
5       the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and to their local  
6       communities, averaging 150,000 volunteer hours per year,  
7       valued at over \$2.8 million per year; and

8           WHEREAS, Master Gardeners volunteer to operate the  
9       Master Gardener Helpline, where they field calls from home  
10      gardeners on landscape and garden issues; and

11          WHEREAS, through their volunteer service, Master  
12      Gardeners have contributed to the development of greenspaces,  
13      streetscapes, and other municipal beautification projects  
14      throughout the state; and

15          WHEREAS, Master Gardeners have developed  
16      demonstration gardens for community education programs and  
17      food gardens that donate produce to foodbanks through the Grow  
18      More, Give More Program; and

19          WHEREAS, the Harvest for Health Program,  
20      multidisciplinary research between The University of Alabama  
21      at Birmingham and Auburn University, has paired Master  
22      Gardeners with cancer survivors to exemplify the health  
23      benefits of gardening; and

24          WHEREAS, the Master Gardeners are a constant force  
25      supporting a range of community programs and events, including  
26      county fairs, through their service and philanthropy; now  
27      therefore,

1                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
2   HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Cooperative  
3   Extension System's Master Gardener Program is commended for  
4   its contributions to the State of Alabama, and by copy of this  
5   resolution is recognized for its impact toward making our  
6   state more beautiful and its citizens more capable of  
7   environmentally safe and sound decisions for their home  
8   landscapes.