

1 SJR25
2 216848-1
3 By Senators Allen, Scofield, Beasley, Albritton, Barfoot,
4 Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott,
5 Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Holley, Jones, Livingston,
6 Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed, Roberts,
7 Sanders-Fortier, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 02-FEB-22

COMMENDING MR. BILL GILLEY FOR HIS RECOGNITION
DURING THE 2021 ALABAMA AGRICULTURE HALL OF HONOR BANQUET ON
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, we
highly commend Mr. Bill Gilley for his recognition during the
2021 Alabama Agriculture Hall of Honor Banquet on September
16, 2021; and

WHEREAS, born and reared on a small farm in Chatom,
Alabama, Mr. Gilley is known for using his intelligence,
determination, and the lessons he learned at Auburn University
to prevent the collapse of the poultry industry in the 1960s;
during his time at Auburn University, where he earned a
Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Education and a
Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Education, he was
tutored by poultry science legends, Dr. Dale King and Dr.
Allen Edgar, with whom he worked to develop new disease
control methods; Mr. Gilley also worked with Dr. Dwight Bond,
with whom he developed a complicated procedure that injected
turkey blood into day-old baby chicks to keep the baby chicks

1 from developing Marek's Disease, a disease that causes birds
2 to develop tumors that make them unfit for human consumption;
3 the procedure was 100 percent effective in protecting Mr.
4 Gilley's flocks from the disease, and thus he shared the
5 guidelines with the rest of the industry, and his program
6 became common practice; two years later, a commercially
7 available vaccine was developed using the same turkey blood; a
8 form of this vaccine is still used today; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1965, Mr. Gilley began working for Red
10 Hat Poultry, which later became ConAgra Foods; he worked in
11 Auburn, Alabama, for a year, where he developed an
12 environmentally controlled house to grow broilers and
13 replacement pullets, and many of these management procedures
14 are still used today; in 1966, he moved to ConAgra Foods'
15 Decatur, Alabama, location, where he eventually managed the
16 facility's commercial layer operation; finally, he became the
17 Bird Health Director for all ConAgra Foods operations in
18 Alabama and Georgia, and it was in this role that he made some
19 of his most important contributions to the poultry industry,
20 including, addressing not only Marek's Disease, but also
21 equally devastating diseases, such as Pullorum and Mycoplasma;
22 in 1972, Mr. Gilley moved to Ruston, Louisiana, and started a
23 successful, new grow-out operation for ConAgra Foods; 10 years
24 later, the company moved him to Enterprise, Alabama, where he
25 continued to make contributions to the industry until his
26 retirement in 1995; during his retirement, he worked with the
27 Coffee County Extension Service and the Auburn Poultry Science

1 Department to develop dead-bird disposal by using a composting
2 method, a system that is still used today; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Gilley is a graduate of Washington
4 County High School, where he was Salutatorian and Student Body
5 President and where he met his wife of 59 years and counting,
6 Polly; during the 2021 Alabama Agriculture Hall of Honor
7 Banquet at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference
8 Center at Grand National on September 16, 2021, Auburn
9 University's College of Agriculture and Agricultural Alumni
10 Association recognized Mr. Gilley for his contributions to
11 Alabama agriculture through the years and inducted him into
12 the Hall of Honor in the agribusiness sector; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Gilley is indeed an incredible leader
14 whose knowledge, diligence, and selflessness continue to
15 inspire the lives of many; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Mr. Bill Gilley is highly
18 commended for his recognition during the 2021 Alabama
19 Agriculture Hall of Honor Banquet on September 16, 2021, and
20 this resolution hereby serves as a tribute to him with warmest
21 gratitude and admiration, along with sincere best wishes for
22 continued happiness and success in all future endeavors.