

1 SJR99
2 218965-1
3 By Senator Butler
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 30-MAR-22

RECOGNIZING MAYOR BURWELL L. WILBANKS OF MADISON,
ALABAMA, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE.

WHEREAS, it is a distinct privilege to recognize and
extend our highest commendations to Mr. Burwell L. "Sonny"
Wilbanks, longtime Mayor of Madison, Alabama, for his service
to his community and the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Wilbanks began service to the City of
Madison in 1969 and served in this important position until
September 1988; prior to serving as mayor, he served in the
United States Navy from 1950-1952; upon returning, he enrolled
in the Florence State Teachers College, now the University of
North Alabama and studied engineering at Auburn University;
Mayor Wilbanks worked as an engineer at NASA in the Saturn
Instrument Group, where he made two presentations to Wernher
von Braun and conducted meetings with top-level scientists; he
married Jane Bradley in 1958; Mayor Wilbanks has a daughter,
Jane Ellen Kennedy (Alan) and son, Brian Wilbanks (Emily); he
has three grandchildren, Drew, Brian, Jr., and Grace Ann; and

1 WHEREAS, during his tenure as mayor, Mr. Wilbanks
2 faced infrastructure demands, annexation threats, and
3 quality-of-life improvements for a small town posed to become
4 a city; during his administration, a high school was added,
5 Hughes Road was widened, a branch library was opened, the
6 first full-time firefighters were hired, the North Alabama Gas
7 District was founded, Madison's tax base was preserved with
8 the addition of Interstate 565, and the Huntsville annexation
9 was victoriously opposed, maintaining the City of Madison's
10 identity; and

11 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilbanks has faithfully and
12 selflessly served the citizens of Madison, Alabama, for many
13 years making significant and lasting improvements to the city;
14 now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize and highly
17 commend Mr. Burwell L. "Sonny" Wilbanks, longtime Mayor of
18 Madison, Alabama, and by copy of this resolution we extend to
19 him our highest tribute and deepest admiration, along with
20 best wishes in all future endeavors.