

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

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

10  
11 WHEREAS, it is a distinct privilege to recognize and  
12 extend our highest commendations to Mr. Burwell L. "Sonny"  
13 Wilbanks, longtime Mayor of Madison, Alabama, for his service  
14 to his community and the State of Alabama; and

15 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilbanks began service to the City of  
16 Madison in 1969 and served in this important position until  
17 September 1988; prior to serving as mayor, he served in the  
18 United States Navy from 1950-1952; upon returning, he enrolled  
19 in the Florence State Teachers College, now the University of  
20 North Alabama and studied engineering at Auburn University;  
21 Mayor Wilbanks worked as an engineer at NASA in the Saturn  
22 Instrument Group, where he made two presentations to Wernher  
23 von Braun and conducted meetings with top-level scientists; he  
24 married Jane Bradley in 1958; Mayor Wilbanks has a daughter,  
25 Jane Ellen Kennedy (Alan) and son, Brian Wilbanks (Emily); he  
26 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.