

1       HR285  
2       219947-1  
3       By Representatives Boyd, Brown (K), Wood (R) and Hurst  
4       RFD:  
5       First Read: 06-APR-22

COMMENDING DR. HORACE L. PATTERSON ON HIS  
RECOGNITION BY THE WILLIE AND BETTY FARRIOR FAMILY FOUNDATION.

WHEREAS, On March 10, 2022, the Willie and Betty  
Farrior Family Foundation recognized various Talladega County  
community leaders for their contributions to the Talladega  
County community and society; the Willie and Betty Farrior  
Family Foundation was established in honor of Willie and Betty  
Farrior, a totally blind couple who, together, dedicated their  
existences to positively impacting their community and  
advocating for those who could not advocate for themselves;  
and

WHEREAS, among those recognized was Dr. Horace L.  
Patterson, Senior Pastor of Mount Canaan Baptist Church in  
Talladega County, Founding Father of the Rushing Springs  
School of Theology, and current President Pro Tempore of the  
Alabama Department of Senior Services; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Patterson has augmented his  
ministerial career with educating himself about the infinite  
complexities of our Creator and of his creations; this learned

1 man of the cloth has earned the following degrees: Bachelor of  
2 Theology in Systematic Theology from Selma University in 1972;  
3 Bachelor of Arts in Clinical Psychology from Talladega College  
4 in 1977; Master of Science in Counseling from Jacksonville  
5 State University in 1983; Doctor of Divinity from Selma  
6 University, in 1989; and a Doctor of Humane Letters from  
7 Talladega College, in 2019; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Patterson's pastoral career has  
9 taken him to five churches: First Baptist Church of Marquette,  
10 Michigan, from 1966 to 1967; New Saint Paul Baptist Church of  
11 Bessemer, Alabama, from 1969 to 1971; First Baptist Church of  
12 Perryville, Alabama, in 1971; Liberty Baptist Church of  
13 Alabaster, Alabama, from 1971 to 1974; and his present  
14 position of Senior Pastor of Mount Canaan Baptist Church in  
15 Talladega, Alabama, which he assumed in 1974; and

16 WHEREAS, at Mount Canaan Baptist Church, Reverend  
17 Patterson led Mount Canaan to build 22 apartments valued at 2  
18 million dollars, build a regional Family Life Center valued at  
19 4 million dollars, and renovated the church and built a new  
20 educational unit; and

21 WHEREAS, Reverend Patterson's impact has reached far  
22 beyond the four walls of the church; prior to becoming  
23 "Reverend Patterson" to his brothers and sisters at Mount  
24 Canaan Baptist Church, he served as a Behavior Specialist at  
25 the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind Helen Keller School,  
26 founded and served as President of the Rushing Springs School  
27 of Theology in Sylacauga, served as Director of the Chronic

1 Case Chillison-Community Mental Health, worked as a Tutorial  
2 Director at Talladega College Special Services, worked as a  
3 Research Specialist at the Talladega College Criminal Justice  
4 Department, and taught as Professor of Systematic Theology at  
5 the Talladega College Continuing Education Department;  
6 Reverend Patterson has also authored eight books, about both  
7 theology and self-help, and has held book signings across the  
8 nation, at which he enjoys meeting and sharing his soul with  
9 others; and

10 WHEREAS, Reverend Patterson currently serves as  
11 Statewide Director of the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind  
12 Senior and Family Services; Originator of Fulfillment  
13 Counseling, as introduced in his book "Clean but Empty";  
14 lecturer at the Alabama Baptist State Congress, the National  
15 Baptist Congress, and the Rushing Springs School of Theology,  
16 where he delivers a biennial Horace L. Patterson Lecture  
17 Series; and as a lecturer for various other civic, political,  
18 and religious organizations; he also is a member of the  
19 Talladega City Board of Education, where he has served for 10  
20 years, four of which were as the first African American  
21 President of the Board; member of the Alabama Industrial  
22 Relations Council, six-term City Council member for the City  
23 of Talladega; and is a past member of the Alabama Democratic  
24 State Executive Committee; and

25 WHEREAS, although his accomplishments, including  
26 honors bestowed by three governors, national and international  
27 recognition by numerous organizations, and a plethora of local

1 commendations, are too numerous to recount here, Reverend  
2 Patterson would rather this resolution share an honest glimpse  
3 into his heart, as shown through some of his favorite  
4 scriptures and proverbs: Micah 6:8, "He hath shewed thee, O  
5 man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but  
6 to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy  
7 God?"; the old African proverb, "If you want to go fast, go  
8 alone. If you want to go far, go together"; and one of the  
9 central statements of the American Christopher Society, "It is  
10 better to light one candle than to curse the darkness"; and

11 WHEREAS, Reverend Patterson treasures the promises  
12 of the future reflected in the offspring of he and his wife,  
13 Dr. Doria McIntosh Patterson, longtime Talladega County  
14 educator: two sons, Horace Jr. and Julian Niles, and one  
15 daughter, Ivy Eleece Patterson; one daughter-in-law, Angela  
16 Patterson; and four grandchildren, Horace III, Jordan Kaesi,  
17 Nicholas, and Christian; and

18 WHEREAS, this body finds it fitting and proper to  
19 commend Reverend Patterson for exhibiting the spirit of a true  
20 Alabamian, and for serving as an example of leadership and  
21 virtue; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
23 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Dr. Horace L. Patterson is  
24 hereby commended for his recognition by the Willie and Betty  
25 Farrior Family Foundation, and that a copy of this resolution  
26 be offered to him as a token of the immense esteem with which  
27 he is regarded by this body.

