HJR11

A4DEQS7-1

By Representatives Chestnut, Bedsole, Lawrence, Gray, Robbins

RFD: RULES

First Read: 06-Feb-24

HJR____ CONGRATULATING GUNNAR RANDAL HENDERSON FOR WINNING THE SILVER SLUGGER AWARD AND THE 2023 JACKIE ROBINSON AMERICAN LEAGUE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, highest commendations and congratulations are conveyed to Gunnar Randal Henderson, a native son of Alabama, on being awarded the Silver Slugger Award and unanimously winning the 2023 Jackie Robinson American League Rookie of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Gunnar Henderson was born on June 29, 2001, in Montgomery, Alabama; he grew up in Selma and attended John T. Morgan Academy; in 2019, his senior year in high school, he was named Alabama Sports Writers Association's Mr. Baseball and selected as the Gatorade Player of the Year for Alabama; furthermore, he was named to the Under Armour, Perfect Game, Baseball America, USA Today, Collegiate Baseball, and Area Code High School All-American teams after batting .559 with 17 doubles, nine triples, 11 home runs, 69 runs scored, and 75 RBIs while stealing 32 bases; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore Orioles selected Henderson in the second round of the 2019 Major League Baseball (MLB) draft with the 42nd overall pick; and

WHEREAS, Henderson was named the best overall athlete in the Orioles' minor league system going into the 2021

season, where he played over 105 games between three teams slashing .258/.350/.476 with 17 home runs, 74 RBIs, 28 doubles, and 16 stolen bases; for the 2022 season, Henderson was named Baseball America's Minor League Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the Orioles promoted Gunnar Henderson to their major league roster and he made his debut on August 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Gunnar Henderson was named the number one prospect in Major League Baseball going into the 2023 season by Baseball America and MLB Pipeline, and from there he has won the following prestigious awards: Sporting News 2023 American League Rookie of the Year, MLB Pipeline's 2023 All-Rookie Team, Baseball Digest 2023 Rookie of the Year, and 2023 MLB Players Association's Outstanding Rookie of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore Orioles infielder received the Silver Slugger Award as the best hitting utility player in the American League for the 2023 MLB season; voted on by MLB managers and coaches, the Silver Slugger awards have been presented annually since 1980 to the top offensive player at each position in each league; and

WHEREAS, his incredible 2023 season culminated in his unanimous win of one of the highest honors in Major League Baseball, the 2023 Jackie Robinson American League Rookie of the Year (ROY) Award, which is voted on by the Baseball Writers' Association of America; he is the seventh Oriole to win this prestigious ROY award; and

WHEREAS, other notable MLB accomplishments include, but are not limited to, hitting a 462-foot home run against the Kansas City Royals, which was the farthest ever hit onto Eutaw Street in the 31-year history of Camden Yards; setting the Orioles' record for extra base hits by a rookie at 66, and finishing the 2023 regular season with 28 home runs, 82 RBIs, .814 OPS, and a .255 AVG; and

WHEREAS, the occasion of Gunnar Henderson's designation as winner of both the Silver Slugger Award and the 2023 Jackie Robinson American League Rookie of the Year Award are accomplishments to be celebrated; his single-minded dedication, strong desire for success, constant training, and tireless and diligent efforts to achieve excellence serve as a valuable example to young athletes across the country and in his home State of Alabama; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEROF CONCURRING, That we highly commend and congratulate Gunnar Henderson for his outstanding 2023 Major League Baseball Season and for being selected as the recipient of the Silver Slugger Award and the 2023 Jackie Robinson American League Rookie of the Year Award, and we hereby dedicate this resolution to him with utmost admiration, along with sincere best wishes for continued success.