HR59

367GEZV-1

By Representative Tillman

RFD:

First Read: 23-Feb-24

HR____ COMMENDING ALTON R. WOODARD FOR HIS MANY PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, Alton R. Wood is highly commended for his many professional and civic achievements; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodard attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; while he was earning his degree, he worked with the YMCA as a lifeguard and Youth Program Instructor, taught swimming classes, and coached the swim team and basketball team, foreshadowing his commitment to coaching and caring for others far into the future; he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation Management in 1977; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, he began his professional career with Western Electric Company in 1976 and was promoted within three years, an achievement that takes most people up to seven years to obtain the necessary knowledge and skills; during this time he gave generously of his time and talents as a volunteer for the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodard accepted a position in Atlanta, Georgia, with the YMCA to oversee construction and serve as the Director of the Aquatics Center and managed five YMCA branches; he continued to volunteer as a disaster worker with the American Red Cross and taught aquatics safety

courses; and

WHEREAS, he was recruited to work full-time for the American Red Cross and held positions, including Station Manager and Director of Emergency and Social Services; he earned American Red Cross certifications as a CPR Instructor, First Aid Instructor, Lifeguard Instructor Trainer, Candidate Training Instructor, and Water Safety Instructor Trainer; he also holds certifications as an Advance Open Water SCUBA Diver, Nationally Certified Pool Operator, and SCUBA School International certification; during his decade of service with the Red Cross he had assignments in Indiana, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Alabama; and

WHEREAS, during his time with the Birmingham Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, he supervised four divisions and was responsible for seven county area Emergency Services and developed Project S.H.A.R.E. in 57 of Alabama's 67 counties; he earned several awards during his 10-year tenure with the nonprofit organization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodard made Birmingham his home and worked for Hill Crest Hospital as a Business Development Manager and Community Consultant before returning to his recreation career; in 1994, he became the first Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Fairfield; during his 22 years with the city, he opened the first indoor swimming pool and also became the first Director of the Fairfield Civic Center; in 2016, he was recruited by the City of Bessemer to become the first Director of that city's Parks

and Recreation Department and manage the state-of-the-art recreation center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodard furthered his education with an advanced degree from Austin Pea State University in Public Health and Safety in 1985; in 2000, he graduated from The University of Alabama at Birmingham's Minority Business Training Development Program with a certificate in Business Management; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodard has held past and present memberships and leadership positions on several professional and civic committees and boards, including Fairfield City Schools Education Advisory Board; Fairfield Community Education Program Advisory Council; Fairfield Lions Club; Central Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation; Jefferson, Walker, and Shelby Counties Mental Health Associations; Alabama Kidney Foundations; VOICES for Alabama's Children Steering Committee; National Youth Sports Program Advisory Committee; Jefferson County Family Court Advisory Committee; Magic City Kiwanis Club; National Disaster Medical System Steering Committee; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated; and Positive Maturity Advisory Committee; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Alton R. Woodard is highly commended for his many professional and civic achievements and this resolution is offered to him by Representative Ontario Tillman as evidence of our great regard with warm appreciation for the positive impact he has made in the

community, and with best wishes for continued success and prosperity.