HR101

PD5NRGG-1

By Representative Boyd

RFD:

First Read: 06-Mar-24

HR____ HONORING JOSEPHINE SAWYER MCKINNEY FOR HER RECOGNITION BY THE WILLIE AND BETTY FARRIOR FAMILY FOUNDATION FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein presented to Josephine Sawyer McKinney who will be honored by the Willie and Betty Farrior Family Foundation for her outstanding service to the Talladega Community and the great State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Willie and Betty Farrior Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in March 2017 by Colonel (Retired) Cedrick A. Farrior in memory of his grandparents; both were native Alabamians who unfortunately lost their vision at an early age; they attended the Alabama School for the Negro Deaf and Blind in Talladega, Alabama, and they married in October 1945; Willie became the first Black blind individual to be employed at the Alabama Industries for the Blind in June 1950; Willie Farrior was employed until he retired after 40 years, and Betty Farrior retired after 27 years of employment; their persistence for excellence, despite having to overcome many obstacles, and their commitment to serving others made lasting impressions that are still present today; and

WHEREAS, the Willie and Betty Farrior Family

Foundation was founded to promote the idea of "selfless service with a purpose" and to inspire and support the community; in addition to providing Foundation Scholarships and a Front of The Line Pre-Apprenticeship Program, they recognize individuals who are making a difference through tremendous efforts and achievements in the Talladega Community; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding individual who epitomizes the community leadership characteristics that were so admired in the lives of Willie and Betty Farrior is Josephine Sawyer McKinney, who is a native of Talladega; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McKinney earned degrees from Gadsden State Community College, Jacksonville State University, Rushing Springs School of Theology, and is currently pursuing a Masters in Christian Education from the Pollard-Carter Graduate Program at Selma University; and

WHEREAS, she has represented her community with honor through various appointments; she was recommended by Senator Jim Pruett and named by the Commissioner of Agriculture to the Talladega County Board of Registrars; she has served as Secretary, Membership Chairperson, and Scholarship Committee Member to the Talladega County NAACP; she is a member of the Talladega County Democratic Conference; and she was appointed as a member of the Talladega Redevelopment Authority by the Talladega City Council; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McKinney is dedicated to community service endeavors in the Talladega area and throughout the state; through her participation with the Alabama Baptist

State Minister's Wives Auxiliary's Outreach, she has served as part of the Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women Ministry; and through her affiliation with the Rushing Springs District Missionary Baptist Association, where she an instructor and President Emeritus, she has worked with the Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM) Prison Ministry and the Second Chance Ministry Program for victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McKinney is married to Reverend Dr. Johnny F. McKinney, the Pastor of Rocky Mount Baptist Church in Talladega; she is committed to her church family and has served within the church in many areas, including as Christian Education Director, Vacation Bible School Director, and Adult Sunday School Teacher; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her many community service and outreach involvements, Mrs. McKinney has been employed at Fort McClellan in various positions; she retired as a Senior Auditor in the Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we heartily congratulate Mrs. Josephine Sawyer McKinney on being honored by the Willie and Betty Farrior Family Foundation for her outstanding service to the Talladega Community and the State of Alabama, and this resolution is offered with utmost appreciation to her, along with best wishes in all future endeavors.