

HR156 INTRODUCED



HR156

ZMILRRK-1

By Representatives Stadthagen, Moore (M), Moore (P), Wood (D),
Wood (R), Almond, Baker, Bedsole, Blackshear, Bolton, Boyd,
Bracy, Brinyark, Brown, Butler, Carns, Chestnut, Clarke,
Clouse, Collins, Colvin, Crawford, Daniels, Drummond, DuBose,
Easterbrook, Ellis, England, Ensler, Estes, Faulkner, Fidler,
Fincher, Forte, Garrett, Gidley, Givan, Givens, Gray, Hall,
Hammett, Harbison, Harrison, Hassell, Hendrix, Hill,
Holk-Jones, Hollis, Hulsey, Hurst, Ingram, Jackson, Jones,
Kiel, Kirkland, Lamb, Lands, Lawrence, Ledbetter, Lee,
Lipscomb, Lomax, Lovvorn, Marques, McCampbell, McClammy,
Mooney, Morris, Oliver, Paramore, Paschal, Pettus, Pringle,
Rafferty, Rehm, Reynolds, Rigsby, Robbins, Robertson, Sellers,
Sells, Shaver, Shaw, Shedd, Shirey, Simpson, Smith, Sorrells,
Standridge, Starnes, Stringer, Stubbs, Tillman, Travis,
Treadaway, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Whitt, Whorton,
Wilcox, Woods, Yarbrough

RFD:

First Read: 04-Apr-24



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4 HR_____ CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING BIG OAK RANCH FOR 50
5 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN AND STATE OF ALABAMA.
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7 WHEREAS, Big Oak Ranch was founded in 1974 by John
8 Croyle to meet the needs of abused, neglected, and abandoned
9 children by giving them a solid, Christian home and a chance
10 to realize and fulfill God's plan for their lives; and

11 WHEREAS, in the past 50 years, Big Oak Ranch has been
12 called to meet the needs of more than 2,000 children; they
13 have grown from a single farmhouse that served five boys
14 into seven ministry teams dedicated to continually improving
15 the standard of care for children who need a chance, and
16 they have advanced the mission of loving, long-term,
17 Christian homes nationwide; and

18 WHEREAS, the children who call Big Oak Ranch home
19 come from various backgrounds and unique circumstances;
20 while the children are all different, they all have
21 heartbreak and difficulty in common; most have never known
22 the stability of a true home and most were never given
23 unconditional love; the lives of these children were too
24 often filled with fear, pain, and uncertainty; and

25 WHEREAS, four promises are made to every child who
26 comes to Big Oak Ranch: We love you; We will never lie to
27 you; We will stick with you until you are grown; There are
28 boundaries; in those four promises, each child finds love



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29 and emotional support; they find truth and honesty; they
30 find security; and they find discipline; and overwhelmingly,
31 they find hope and the chance to discover God's true purpose
32 for their lives; and

33 WHEREAS, when children arrive at the Ranch, they are
34 assigned to full-time houseparents and move into a home with
35 their own bedroom; they receive food, clothing, health care,
36 dental care, and attend a private Christian school in
37 Rainbow City; and

38 WHEREAS, fifty years after John Croyle founded Big
39 Oak Ranch, it is run by Brodie Croyle, John Croyle's son,
40 and his wife, Kelli; it operates completely debt-free
41 without taking funds from any government entity; and

42 WHEREAS, the Ranch operates a cattle program, Big Oak
43 Cattle, that stocks the Ranch with over 15,000 pounds of red
44 meat every year and runs ASCEND, a program to prepare young
45 adults who grew up at Big Oak Ranch for the real world; and

46 WHEREAS, Big Oak Ranch now has 13 homes for boys and
47 11 homes for girls and last year served children in 10
48 different states; among the children served over the past
49 five years, over 100 have professed their faith in Christ;
50 furthermore, in the 2021-2022 school year, 99 children
51 finished on the A/B honor roll, and 13 young adults received
52 college or trade education; and

53 WHEREAS, every day for 50 years, Big Oak Ranch has
54 worked diligently to meet the needs of many voiceless
55 children as it continues to grow and expand its services in
56 a community committed to God's design; now therefore



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57 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
58 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Big Oak Ranch is recognized and
59 commended for 50 years of dedicated and continued service to
60 the State of Alabama and specifically to children in need of
61 love, security, safety, and hope; this resolution is offered
62 in highest tribute, along with sincere best wishes for
63 continued blessings and success in all future endeavors.