

HR129 INTRODUCED



1 HR129
2 JPH9SYN-1
3 By Representative Jackson
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 17-Feb-26



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4 HR_____ RECOGNIZING RALPH D. PATTON FOR 25 YEARS OF COACHING
5 SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SPORTS IN THE BIRMINGHAM AREA.
6

7 WHEREAS, it is with the highest admiration and
8 deepest respect that we recognize Ralph D. Patton for his
9 many contributions to the growth and well-being of young
10 athletes across Birmingham as a teacher, coach,
11 administrator, and community program assistant; and

12 WHEREAS, Ralph Patton was a talented athlete at
13 Brainerd High School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, juggling
14 time between basketball, cross country, and track; upon
15 graduation in 1975, he received a scholarship to play
16 basketball at Hiwassee Junior College in Madisonville,
17 Tennessee, where he earned an Associate of Arts degree; and

18 WHEREAS, after Hiwassee, Ralph accepted a basketball
19 scholarship from Birmingham-Southern College (BSC); he led
20 his team to the National Interscholastic Athletic
21 Administrators Association level and the Southern States
22 Athletic Conference, winning distinction as the Most
23 Valuable Player of the team and the first African American
24 inducted into the college's Hall of Fame in 1987; from BSC,
25 he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Education; and

26 WHEREAS, while attending graduate school at The
27 University of Alabama at Birmingham, Coach Patton began his
28 teaching and coaching career, working in Birmingham public



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29 schools as well as managing and coaching youth programs in
30 affluent areas of Birmingham; as a Community School
31 Assistant Director, he coordinated activities for at-risk
32 youth; he had a gift for making connections with young,
33 urban, low-income children; he was also able to make a
34 difference in the lives of affluent youth who needed
35 support; his contact with two seemingly disparate groups
36 allowed him to bring together black and white, rich and
37 poor, and create a sense of community, citizenship, and hope
38 for a bright future by encouraging the youth to believe in
39 themselves; and

40 WHEREAS, from 1991 through 1999, Coach Patton worked
41 as the Athletic Director and a physical education teacher
42 coaching basketball, soccer, and tennis for boys and girls
43 at The Altamont School in Birmingham, ranked as one of the
44 top private schools in Alabama; while under his
45 administration, Altamont athletes won multiple area, state,
46 and regional awards; Coach Patton received Teacher of the
47 Year from Altamont in 1995, Walmart Teacher of the Year in
48 1999, and placed in the Top 10 for the National Teacher
49 Award; in 2017, The Altamont School renovated and named its
50 world-class athletic facility "The Patton Gym" in his honor;
51 and

52 WHEREAS, despite being involved in a near-fatal car
53 accident in 1999 that left him partially paralyzed and
54 suffering from traumatic brain injury, Coach Patton has
55 remained active in retirement through supporting community
56 youth activities, volunteering for The Dannon Project, and



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57 serving on a variety of boards and committees, such as The
58 Altamont Alumni Board and The Birmingham-Southern Hall of
59 Fame Committee; he also spends time caring for his
60 90-year-old mother, Velma Patton, and visiting family
61 members and former students; and

62 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Coach Patton taught
63 his students the meaning of self-respect and self-worth; he
64 encouraged, promoted, and disciplined his students with the
65 even hand of love and fairness, teaching them both athletic
66 and life skills as the foundation of good citizenship and
67 honor; now therefore,

68 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
69 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we are proud to recognize Ralph
70 D. Patton for the many ways he has enriched the young people
71 of Birmingham through his love of sports, and this
72 resolution is offered to him in sincere appreciation for his
73 hard work and impeccable example that he has set for
74 student-athletes across Alabama.