

1 HR294
2 169913-1
3 By Representative Harper
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 26-MAY-15

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8 COMMENDING HERSHEL OWENS ON BEING SELECTED PIONEER
9 OF THE YEAR.

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11 WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations
12 are herein proudly presented to Hershel Owens on being
13 selected Pioneer of the Year; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Owen was born December 23, 1938, in
15 Burnwell, Alabama, nearly four months before the beginning of
16 World War II; he came from very humble beginnings and lived
17 his first years in one of the most difficult periods of time
18 in the history of the United States; his family did not have
19 even the basic conveniences including electricity and indoor
20 plumbing; and

21 WHEREAS, as a first grader, he moved with his family
22 to Jasper, Alabama, to live and work on a 40 acre farm; while
23 his father worked in the coal mines, he, along with his mother
24 and sister, tended to the farm; he did not own any means of
25 transportation and walked everywhere he went; in the seventh
26 grade, he moved to Northport, Alabama, where he operated a
27 small grocery store; one year later, he moved to Tuscaloosa,

1 Alabama, where he finished school; as a junior and senior in
2 high school, he worked in a garage as a mechanic, drove a
3 wrecker, and drove a station wagon, that he turned into an
4 ambulance; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Owens accepted Jesus Christ as his
6 personal Lord and Savior in 1956 as a high school senior;
7 during the same year, he started to feel God's calling on him
8 to preach the gospel; because of opposition from his father
9 and the fact that he was not reared in church, he joined the
10 Army instead; while on assignment at the Fort Rucker Aviation
11 School, in Fort Rucker, Alabama, he finished two years of
12 college classes through a program at Troy State College; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Owens continued to feel God's call on
14 his life; he finally chose to leave the service and prepared
15 to go into ministry, enrolling at the University of Alabama;
16 soon, the family finances fell so much that he was forced to
17 leave the University and help provide for his family; later,
18 he enrolled in Howard College, in Birmingham, Alabama, where
19 he attended class for two more semesters; when his father and
20 mother divorced, he had to leave school again to provide for
21 his mother and sister; and

22 WHEREAS, with little work and no job prospects, Mr.
23 Owens trusted in God's provision; an acquaintance at the
24 church he attended recommended him for a job with the First
25 National Bank of Tuscaloosa, which hired him and requested
26 that he serve as chaplain for the bank employees; later, he
27 moved to Gordo, Alabama, where he pastored Mt. Pleasant

1 Baptist Church for 34 years; notably, he retired from the bank
2 as Senior Vice President; he continues to live in Gordo and
3 pastor Emmanuel Baptist Church, where he has provided holy
4 counsel for 15 years; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Owens has served on the Pickens County
6 DHR Board since 2006 and as a member of the Chamber of
7 Commerce for many years; God has blessed him with a wonderful
8 family; he and his Godly wife, have four children, nine
9 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; he enjoys flying,
10 especially around the Pickens County, Alabama, area; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Owens displays all of the meritorious
12 characteristics the Pioneer of the Year selection encourages
13 and represents; through the years, he has earned immense
14 admiration and respect from all those who have been fortunate
15 enough to know him; his unwavering commitment to excellence
16 reflects immense honor upon the entire State of Alabama, and
17 he is truly deserving of the significant honor bestowed upon
18 him; now therefore,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
20 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Hershel Owen is highly
21 honored and commended, and this resolution is offered to him
22 in deepest admiration and appreciation, along with sincere
23 best wishes for the future.