

1 HJR629
2 131888-2
3 By Representative Sanderford
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 24-MAY-11

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
3 COMMENDING MS. KAREN SMITH, 2011 LEGISLATIVE
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR.

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6 WHEREAS, annually, one exceptional employee from the
7 Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of state
8 government is recognized for exemplary performance on behalf
9 of the people of Alabama; and

10 WHEREAS, we are highly pleased to note that the 2011
11 Legislative Employee of the Year is Ms. Karen Smith, a highly
12 respected attorney with the Legislative Reference Service and
13 a dear friend to many of us; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Smith was born in Delaware and grew up
15 on a farm in New Jersey, the Deep South region of Jersey as
16 she is quick to remind; her impressive academic achievements
17 include graduating magna cum laude from the University of
18 South Carolina and in the top fifth of her law school class at
19 Delaware's Widener University; her legal career is equally
20 notable and includes service as an assistant prosecutor in New
21 Jersey, private practice in California, Special Master for an
22 Alabama Circuit Court Judge, and staff attorney for two
23 Alabama Court of Civil Appeals Judges; and

24 WHEREAS, Ms. Smith joined the Legislative Reference
25 Service in 1994 and during the last 17 years her immeasurable

1 contributions to the legislative process include crafting
2 scores of complex and challenging statutes and composing a
3 multitude of authoritative and well-reasoned opinions; her
4 impressive legal research talents are graciously offered and
5 gratefully accepted by fellow staff attorneys, as well as
6 those in the private sector; Karen's writing skills, both
7 technical and creative, are exceptional and her demanding
8 attention to detail is both daunting and delightful; she is an
9 eminent authority on the Alabama Sunset Law and has ably
10 served as the Sunset Committee Attorney since 1994; her 12
11 years' tenure as the Attorney for the Senate Education
12 Committee was distinguished and her vast knowledge of school
13 law is widely recognized; she has played a singular role in
14 the codification of local laws and the recompliation of Title
15 16, the Education Chapter, and has been a critical component
16 in the continued codification of the entire Code of Alabama;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, in addition to her professional abilities,
19 Ms. Smith is an extraordinary individual; she is a six year
20 breast cancer survivor and her Sunny Gal disposition is a true
21 inspiration to all; she is a proud Jersey Girl with old
22 fashion values, modern day moxie, and a precise moral compass
23 that always points to what is right; the devoted mother of
24 Alexandra, Samantha, and Sydney, she somehow manages to handle
25 legislative demands with those of family, church, and

1 community, causing some to wonder if folks in Clanton have
2 more than 24 hours in a day; and in her limited spare time,
3 Karen is active in Relay For Life, and enjoys church softball,
4 beading, lake weekends, and having Born To Be Wild moments on
5 her motorcycle; and

6 WHEREAS, it is self-evident that Karen Smith has
7 made invaluable contributions to the Legislative Branch of
8 government; Senators, Representatives, staffers, and members
9 of the legislative community highly value her knowledge,
10 responsible manner, persistence, can do attitude, and genuine
11 concern for others; in this highly charged environment her
12 sensitive and skillful professionalism is an indisputable
13 asset to this body; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That with great pride and immense
16 pleasure we commend Ms. Karen Smith for her well-deserved
17 selection as the 2011 Legislative Employee of the Year. A copy
18 of this document shall be presented to our respected colleague
19 accompanied by our deep admiration and sincere appreciation.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 25-MAY-11.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate

31-MAY-11

Adopted