

1 HR931  
2 132822-1  
3 By Representative DeMarco  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 09-JUN-11

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8 COMMENDING JAMES R. PRATT, III, FOR EXEMPLARY  
9 PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE.

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11 WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein conveyed to  
12 James R. Pratt, III, in recognition of his outstanding  
13 professional achievements and dedicated public service; and

14 WHEREAS, born and reared in Birmingham, Alabama, Mr.  
15 Pratt accepted a full athletic scholarship to Auburn  
16 University to run track and graduated from the university and  
17 was nominated for and received, by order of the President of  
18 the United States, a regular Army commission where he served  
19 three years as an armor officer with the 9th Infantry  
20 Division; and

21 WHEREAS, after his honorable service to this  
22 country, Mr. Pratt returned to Birmingham, graduated from  
23 Cumberland School of Law and commenced his distinguished legal  
24 career in 1978 with Hare Wynn Newell and Newton LLP; and

25 WHEREAS, an active and exemplary member of both the  
26 Birmingham Bar Association "BBA" and the Alabama State Bar,  
27 Mr. Pratt has served as a member of the Executive Committee

1 for the BBA and on numerous committees, has served two terms  
2 on the state bar's Disciplinary Commission and is currently in  
3 his second term as Bar Commissioner of the Alabama State Bar,  
4 and is an Atticus Finch member of the Alabama Bar Foundation,  
5 a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a member of the  
6 American Law institute; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Pratt is past president of the Alabama  
8 Trial Lawyers Association, and a past chair of the Products  
9 Liability Section of the Association of Trial Lawyers of  
10 America, as well as a past member of the Executive Committee  
11 of the American Trial Lawyers; and

12 WHEREAS, an AV-rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell,  
13 Mr. Pratt has been selected for inclusion in the "Best Lawyers  
14 in America" since 1991, designated by Super Lawyers as one of  
15 the top lawyers in Alabama, and chosen by Law Dragon as one of  
16 the leading 500 plaintiffs attorneys in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, in addition to his distinguished  
18 professional achievements, he is a dedicated community leader  
19 and educator, previously serving as an adjunct faculty member  
20 with the rank of associate scholar at the University of  
21 Alabama at Birmingham's Injury Control Center, as a member of  
22 the Advisory Board for the Biomedical Engineering Department  
23 at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and as a faculty  
24 member for continuing legal education programs at the  
25 University of Alabama School of Law, Cumberland School of Law,  
26 Birmingham Bar Association, Alabama Trial Lawyers Association,  
27 American Trial Lawyers Association, and the National College

1 of Advocacy, which awarded him the highest distinction of  
2 Diplomat; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Pratt has made significant  
4 contributions to the indigent defense system in this state by  
5 tirelessly working on behalf of the Alabama State Bar with  
6 Legislators to craft innovative legislation improving the  
7 efficiency and effectiveness of this system; and

8 WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Mr. Pratt is married  
9 to Marcia Pratt, who is an attorney at Maynard Cooper and  
10 Gale, and they are the proud parents of four children,  
11 including their son, Andy, who is also an Alabama State Bar  
12 member practicing in New York City; and

13 WHEREAS, through the years, Mr. Pratt has earned  
14 respect for his exceptional legal abilities and unwavering  
15 commitment to justice and to his fellow citizens; now  
16 therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
18 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That in recognition of his  
19 outstanding professional achievements and dedicated public  
20 service, James R. Pratt, III, is honored and commended, and  
21 this resolution is offered in highest tribute and deepest  
22 appreciation to him, along with best wishes in all future  
23 endeavors.