

1 SJR114  
2 130982-2  
3 By Senators Dial, Allen, Beasley, Beason, Bedford, Blackwell,  
4 Brewbaker, Brooks, Bussman, Coleman, Dunn, Fielding, Figures,  
5 Glover, Holley, Holtzclaw, Irons, Keahey, Marsh, McGill, Orr,  
6 Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield, Singleton,  
7 Smith, Smitherman, Taylor, Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and  
8 Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 04-MAY-11

1 SJR114

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4 ENROLLED, SJR114,

5 COMMENDING JUDGE JOHN ROCHESTER.  
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7 WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein conveyed to  
8 Judge John Rochester in recognition of his outstanding  
9 professional achievements and dedicated public service as the  
10 Presiding Judge for the 40th Circuit for Clay and Coosa  
11 Counties; and

12 WHEREAS, Judge Rochester announced his retirement  
13 effective December 31, 2010, having earned great esteem for  
14 his fairness as well as for his strict adherence to the law  
15 and courtroom decorum during his exemplary 27-year career on  
16 the bench; and

17 WHEREAS, born in Ashland, Alabama, in 1955, he was  
18 endowed with a strong work ethic and was inspired by his  
19 mother to overcome a childhood of hardship; he began working  
20 at the age of nine and made a vow to himself that he would  
21 help people with financial troubles and legal problems; and

22 WHEREAS, after working his way through college and  
23 earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Auburn University, he  
24 attended Law School at Samford University and years later, in

1 2008, received his Graduate Degree from New York University; and

2 WHEREAS, he opened his law practice in his hometown  
3 in 1980 and was appointed City Judge for Ashland and Wedowee  
4 in 1982, followed by his appointment in 1985 to become the  
5 first District Judge in Clay County; in 1987, he was appointed  
6 to the Circuit Judgeship for Clay, Shelby, and Coosa Counties;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, he has been married since 1975 to his high  
9 school sweetheart, the former Linda Willis, and they are the  
10 proud parents of a daughter, Katie, and son, Alex; and

11 WHEREAS, in addition to his professional life, he  
12 has been a leader in community and charitable organizations  
13 including: President of the Hugo Black Foundation and the  
14 Martha Christine White Foundation, Secretary of the Board of  
15 Voices for Alabama Children, Vice Chair of the Alabama  
16 Humanities Foundation, member of the Governmental Relations  
17 Committee of the Southeastern Council of Foundations, and  
18 Chair of the State of Alabama Health Coordinating Council; and

19 WHEREAS, Judge Rochester's career has been grounded  
20 in core values and his belief in the importance of the court  
21 system to solve problems, and he has made a positive  
22 difference in the lives of countless citizens while earning  
23 respect for his exceptional abilities and unwavering  
24 commitment to justice and his fellowman; now therefore,

1                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognition of his  
3 outstanding professional achievements and dedicated public  
4 service, Judge John Rochester is honored and commended, and  
5 this resolution is offered in highest tribute and deepest  
6 appreciation to him as he begins his well-deserved retirement  
7 years.

8                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
9 resolution be provided for permanent display in the Hugo Black  
10 Courtroom of the Clay County Courthouse.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR114  
Senate 04-MAY-11  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 24-MAY-11

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By: Senator Dial