

1 SJR114
2 130982-1
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

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7
8 COMMENDING JUDGE JOHN ROCHESTER.

9
10 WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein conveyed to
11 Judge John Rochester in recognition of his outstanding
12 professional achievements and dedicated public service as the
13 Presiding Judge for the 40th Circuit for Clay and Coosa
14 Counties; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognition of his

1 outstanding professional achievements and dedicated public
2 service, Judge John Rochester is honored and commended, and
3 this resolution is offered in highest tribute and deepest
4 appreciation to him as he begins his well-deserved retirement
5 years.

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