

1 HJR142
2 137403-2
3 By Representatives Bridges and Laird
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 21-FEB-12

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
COMMENDING THE LAFAYETTE SUN.

WHEREAS, The LaFayette Sun is a venerable Alabama institution whose longevity, community contributions, and journalistic excellence are deserving of highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, the illustrious history of the newspaper is recorded in a series of landmark dates and distinguished names; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 1841, the first newspaper in Chambers County was published, called The Alabama Standard, owned by George Hooper and Henry McGregor, with Johnson Jones Hooper serving as editor; and

WHEREAS, in September 1842, the paper was sold to John F. Gilbert and his son and was renamed The East Alabamian; and

WHEREAS, the paper was sold to Elias Day in June 1844 and then in December 1844 to P.H. Britton, who changed the name to The Chambers Herald; and

WHEREAS, in 1880, the name was changed to The LaFayette Sun, under the ownership of Ernest M. Oliver and others; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1891, S.M. Richards took ownership and
2 from 1901-1922, Samuel Herren Oliver served as editor; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1940, Bonnie Duncan Hand purchased The
4 LaFayette Sun, and the paper has remained in the Hand family
5 since that time, with Pearl Hughes Hand becoming editor and
6 publisher in 1967 upon the death of her husband; after her
7 death in 1989, their son, Mike Hand, became editor and
8 publisher, and he continues his leadership in 2012; and

9 WHEREAS, The LaFayette Sun is the oldest newspaper
10 in Chambers County and is published every Wednesday, providing
11 unparalleled coverage of LaFayette and the surrounding
12 communities; and

13 WHEREAS, The LaFayette Sun is one of the few weekly
14 newspapers in the state to boast three former editors in the
15 Alabama Press Association Hall of Honor: Johnson Jones Hooper,
16 Samuel Herren Oliver, and Bonnie Duncan Hand; and

17 WHEREAS, through the years, The LaFayette Sun has
18 served the area with a commitment to news coverage, service,
19 and adherence to the highest standards of the journalism
20 profession; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That, in recognition of its
23 longtime, exemplary record of good citizenship and
24 journalistic excellence, The LaFayette Sun is herein honored
25 and commended as the oldest newspaper in Chambers County and,

1 by copy of this resolution, we convey our admiration and
2 appreciation, along with best wishes for continuing success
3 far into the future.

