

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

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7  
8 COMMENDING THE LAFAYETTE SUN.  
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10 WHEREAS, The LaFayette Sun is a venerable Alabama  
11 institution whose longevity, community contributions, and  
12 journalistic excellence are deserving of highest commendation;  
13 and

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, the paper was sold to Elias Day in June  
25 1844 and then in December 1844 to P.H. Britton, who changed  
26 the name to The Chambers Herald; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

24           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
25 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That, in recognition of its  
26 longtime, exemplary record of good citizenship and  
27 journalistic excellence, The LaFayette Sun is herein honored

1 and commended as the oldest newspaper in Chambers County and,  
2 by copy of this resolution, we convey our admiration and  
3 appreciation, along with best wishes for continuing success  
4 far into the future.