

1 HR14
2 165220-1
3 By Representative Hubbard
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-MAR-15

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7
8 RECOGNIZING ERIC O. CATES, JR., ON HIS INDUCTION
9 INTO THE AUBURN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
10 HALL OF HONOR.

11
12 WHEREAS, it is a tremendous privilege to recognize
13 Eric O. Cates, Jr., on his outstanding achievement of being
14 inducted into the Auburn University Agricultural Alumni
15 Association Hall of Honor; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Cates was born and reared on the Butler
17 County farm he has owned and operated since 1946; his
18 1,600-acre farm produces row crops, livestock, hay, and
19 timber; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Cates graduated from Greenville High
21 School in 1937 and returned to the family farm, where he
22 managed 600 row-crop acres, before joining the Army National
23 Guard in October 1940; he served with much honor in the
24 Aleutian Islands and Philippines during and after World War
25 II; and

26 WHEREAS, in addition to a successful farming career
27 that has spanned nearly eight decades, he served 16 years as

1 county director of the Agricultural Stabilization and
2 Conservation Service, now known as the Farm Service Agency;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Cates has served as a statewide
5 agricultural leader for decades; he served two terms as an
6 esteemed member of the Alabama House of Representatives,
7 during which time he sponsored numerous bills, including
8 co-sponsorship of the legislation that established the state's
9 current-use property tax valuation and has greatly aided
10 farmers; since 1960, he has served as a member of the Butler
11 County Board of the Alabama Farmers Federation and has held
12 state-level leadership positions in the Alabama Cattlemen's
13 Association and the association of ASCS agents known as ALACO;
14 in addition, he is a member of the Alabama 4-H Hall of Fame
15 and has served on the state's Agricultural Advisory Board; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Cates provided expert leadership and
17 guidance as the director of a local bank, retiring from the
18 position at age 70; since his "retirement" from farming in
19 2003, he has successfully undertaken both real estate
20 development and timber management; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Cates has been a faithful and devoted
22 member of Fort Deposit Methodist Church since 1946; he taught
23 Sunday School for 30 years; his beloved and devoted wife of 69
24 years, Louise, passed away in December 2013; the couple's
25 blissful union has been blessed with four children, Linda,
26 Jean, Anne, and Eric, III; 11 grandchildren; and 20
27 great-grandchildren; and

1 WHEREAS, his meritorious work will be celebrated at
2 the 2015 Hall of Honor Banquet Thursday, February 5, 2015, at
3 the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at
4 Grand National; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Cates has cultivated an indelible
6 legacy of excellence that is an enormous source of credit to
7 the agricultural industry and the entire State of Alabama; now
8 therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
10 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Eric O. Cates, Jr., is
11 honored and commended, and it is directed that a copy of this
12 resolution shall be presented to him in deepest admiration and
13 appreciation, along with sincere best wishes for the future.