

1 HR55
2 179652-1
3 By Representatives McCutcheon, Ainsworth, Alexander, Baker,
4 Ball, Bandy, Beckman, Beech, Black, Blackshear, Boothe, Boyd,
5 Bracy, Brown, Buskey, Butler, Carns, Chesteen, Clarke, Clouse,
6 Coleman, Collins, Crawford, Daniels, Davis, Drake, Drummond,
7 England, Farley, Faulkner, Faust, Fincher, Ford, Forte, Fridy,
8 Garrett, Gaston, Givan, Greer, Grimsley, Hall, Hammon, Hanes,
9 Harbison, Harper, Henry, Hill, Holmes (A), Holmes (M), Howard,
10 Hurst, Ingram, Jackson, Johnson (K), Johnson (R), Jones,
11 Knight, Lawrence, Ledbetter, Lee, Lindsey, Martin, McCampbell,
12 McClammy, McMillan, Melton, Millican, Mooney, Moore (B), Moore
13 (M), Morrow, Nordgren, Patterson, Pettus, Polizos, Poole,
14 Pringle, Rich, Robinson, Rogers, Rowe, Sanderford, Scott,
15 Sells, Sessions, Shedd, Shiver, South, Standridge, Todd,
16 Treadaway, Tuggle, Wadsworth, Warren, Weaver, Whorton (I),
17 Whorton (R), Wilcox, Williams (JD), Williams (JW), Williams
18 (P), Wingo and Wood
19 RFD:
20 First Read: 24-AUG-16

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8 POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING MR. LOREN L. ALDRIDGE ON HIS
9 SELECTION FOR A 2017 ALABAMA AGRICULTURE PIONEER AWARD.

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11 WHEREAS, it is a tremendous privilege to
12 posthumously honor Mr. Loren L. Aldridge on his selection for
13 a 2017 Alabama Agriculture Pioneer Award; and

14 WHEREAS, through the years, he earned widespread
15 admiration and respect for his tireless dedication and
16 exceptional abilities, and enriched countless lives through
17 his passion for horticulture; and

18 WHEREAS, an icon in the nursery and floral industry,
19 he founded both the Bessemer Floral Company and Aldridge
20 Garden Center and Nursery and contributed exceptional
21 direction as President of the Alabama Florist Association; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1969, a neighbor questioned the
23 well-respected horticulturist about a curious finding, a
24 cutting that bore a resemblance to the native oakleaf
25 hydrangea, but with slight differences; over the next two
26 years, Mr. Aldridge and his son successfully rooted cuttings
27 from the same plant discovered by the neighbor; notably, the

1 pair received a patent for the *Hydrangea quercifolia*
2 *Snowflake*, or the *Snowflake hydrangea* in 1971; in the years,
3 since, the *Snowflake hydrangea* has emerged as a favorite
4 garden plant around the globe; and

5 WHEREAS, the accomplished Boaz native was a 1926
6 agricultural education graduate of Alabama Polytechnic
7 Institute, where he was involved in many extracurricular
8 activities and earned numerous honors; he was described as the
9 most popular man to ever grace the Auburn campus; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Aldridge and his beloved and devoted
11 wife, Zeta, had two sons, Mac and Eddie; Mr. Aldridge passed
12 away in 1978; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Aldridge's significant contributions to
14 the rewarding field of agriculture are a tremendous source of
15 credit to the entire State of Alabama; his legacy will remain
16 an inspiration for years to come; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
18 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Mr. Loren L. Aldridge is
19 posthumously honored and commended, and this resolution is
20 offered to his family in highest tribute to his legacy.