

1 HR8
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3 By Representative Hubbard
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 02-FEB-16

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8 POSTHUMOUSLY RECOGNIZING RALPH R. HARRIS, SR., ON
9 HIS SELECTION FOR THE ALABAMA AGRICULTURE PIONEER AWARD.

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11 WHEREAS, it is a tremendous privilege to
12 posthumously recognize Ralph R. Harris, Sr., on his selection
13 for the Alabama Agriculture Pioneer Award; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was a significant leader in
15 animal nutrition and health in Alabama; while serving as an
16 Auburn University Department of Animal Science faculty member
17 for 35 years, he taught many of the state's veterinarians, but
18 modestly quipped that he just taught his students how to feed
19 cows hay; and

20 WHEREAS, at an early age, Mr. Harris developed an
21 affinity for working with animals while growing up on a small
22 family farm near Winfield, Alabama; his passion led him to
23 pursue agricultural studies at Alabama Polytechnic Institute
24 after graduating at the top of his high school class; he
25 earned a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science in 1951 and a
26 Master's Degree in Animal Nutrition in 1952, before serving
27 three and a half years of active duty in the U.S. Air Force;

1 after his service, he pursued a doctorate at Texas A and M
2 University, where he taught for one year before returning to
3 Auburn to join the College of Agriculture faculty; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was one of the College of
5 Agriculture students' favorite faculty members; he garnered
6 many accolades including the College of Agriculture's Dean
7 Award for Teaching Excellence, Mortar Board Honorary's
8 Favorite Teacher Award, College of Agriculture Teacher of the
9 Year, a special commendation from the Alabama Cattlemen's
10 Association, and induction in the Alabama Cattlemen's
11 Association's Livestock Hall of Fame; Mr. Harris was a member
12 and served as President of Auburn's chapter of Gamma Sigma
13 Delta; among his most relished duties at Auburn were his many
14 years of service as Advisor to Block and Bridle and the Ag
15 Ambassadors; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Harris served as head of the Department
17 of Animal Sciences from 1993 until his retirement from the
18 University in 1995; he served 37 years in the Air Force
19 Reserve, earning the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Harris and his beloved and devoted wife
21 of 61 years, Eleanor, had three children and four
22 grandchildren; Mr. Harris passed away in April 2015; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Harris cultivated an indelible legacy
24 of excellence that is an enormous source of credit to the
25 agricultural industry and the entire State of Alabama; now
26 therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
2 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Ralph R. Harris, Sr., is
3 posthumously honored and commended, and it is directed that a
4 copy of this resolution shall be presented to his family in
5 highest tribute to his memory.