

1 SJR108  
2 177725-1  
3 By Senators Holley, Ross, Ward, Marsh, Albritton, Allen,  
4 Beasley, Blackwell, Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss,  
5 Coleman-Madison, Dial, Dunn, Figures, Glover, Hightower,  
6 Holtzclaw, Livingston, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed,  
7 Sanders, Sanford, Scofield, Shelnut, Singleton, Smith,  
8 Smitherman, Stutts, Waggoner, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 28-APR-16

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8 COMMENDING MICHELE GERLACH FOR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT  
9 OF THE ALABAMA PRESS ASSOCIATION.

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11 WHEREAS, it is with highest praise and great pride  
12 that the Alabama Legislature recognizes and commends Michele  
13 Gerlach upon her election as President of the Alabama Press  
14 Association; she is the fifth woman to hold the office in the  
15 association's 145-year history; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Gerlach earned degrees from the  
17 University of Alabama and Troy University; in 2009 she was  
18 named the University of Alabama School of Communications  
19 Outstanding Alumni in Journalism; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Gerlach is a vice president and group  
21 manager with Boone Newspapers, Inc.; she has previously worked  
22 as a reporter for The Outlook in Alexander City, was managing  
23 editor of the Franklin County Times in Russellville, publisher  
24 of the Atmore Advance, and publisher of the Brewton Standard  
25 before becoming publisher of the Andalusia Star-News; and

26 WHEREAS, she presently serves on the Women's  
27 Advisory Board of the Andalusia Regional Hospital, the Board

1 of Andalusia High School Class of 1948 Scholarship Foundation  
2 Committee, and the Board of the Andalusia Ballet; she  
3 previously served on the Board of the Southern Associations of  
4 Schools and Colleges, and is the former president of the  
5 Andalusia Rotary Club; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Gerlach is the fourth generation of her  
7 family to work in community newspapers; her parents, Ferrin  
8 and Heddy Cox, owned The Elba Clipper; her father also served  
9 as President of the Alabama Press Association; and

10 WHEREAS, it is a pleasure to see a bright,  
11 industrious Alabamian serve the state and continue to focus on  
12 the future with a commitment to her profession; Ms. Gerlach is  
13 a worthy role model and her achievements reflect honor upon  
14 her family, her community, and the State of Alabama; now  
15 therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognition of exceptional  
18 achievement, we most highly commend Michele Gerlach upon her  
19 election as President of the Alabama Press Association, and  
20 further direct that a copy of this resolution be presented to  
21 her with highest praise and honor and also with sincere wishes  
22 for continued success.