

1 HR510
2 187198-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 18-MAY-17

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8 CELEBRATING AND HONORING ELIZABETH SLOAN RAGLAND.

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10 WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society (TVJS)
11 will present its 32nd annual Jazz-N-June Festival June 15-17,
12 2017; and

13 WHEREAS, the festival showcases a variety of musical
14 and artistic events along with activities recognizing and
15 appreciating how African American Gospel music, the Blues, and
16 Classic Jazz helped shape the arts and culture in America; and

17 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Sloan Ragland, a major supporter
18 of the arts in Madison County and who loved American music
19 which influenced the world, lost her battle with cancer on
20 March 10, 2017; and

21 WHEREAS, because of Mrs. Ragland's support and
22 partnership with TVJS, the Tennessee Valley has experienced
23 some of the greatest artist and educators in the world
24 including NEA Jazz Master Marian McPartland, Richie Cole,
25 Freddy Cole, and Roy Ayers, just to name a few; and

26 WHEREAS, since 1998, through the Tennessee Valley
27 Jazz Society and with Mrs. Ragland's support, over 32,500

1 local students, faculty, and staff experienced the Jazz
2 Education is Cool Program; and

3 WHEREAS, as General manager of the 100,000 WJAB FM
4 radio station, she launched the careers of numerous artists by
5 encouraging producers to play releases by Eric Essix, Jazmin
6 Gent, Kelly O'Neal, Devere Pride, P.D. Blair and others; and

7 WHEREAS, in recognition for and in celebration of
8 Mrs. Ragland's committed contribution to the Madison County
9 Tennessee Valley Jazz Society events and activities, the 2017
10 annual Jazz-N-June Festival will be dedicated to her service
11 and in her memory; and

12 WHEREAS, in addition, Oakwood University will host
13 the inaugural Elizabeth Sloan Ragland Multicultural Unity
14 Celebration on Thursday, June 22, 2017, which is designed to
15 bring a dynamic sense of unity to the community through word
16 and song; and

17 WHEREAS, featured events will include a symposium
18 and panel discussion on the evolution of African American
19 Gospel music; a Gospel Music Concert featuring songs from area
20 churches and the unity song by the Elizabeth Sloan Ragland
21 Multicultural Unity Choir, composed of choirs from a variety
22 of churches in the Huntsville community; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
24 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Mrs. Elizabeth Sloan Ragland
25 is posthumously honored and commended, and this resolution is
26 offered in deepest admiration and appreciation along with best

1 wishes to her loving family, many friends, and the entire
2 community where she was highly regarded.