

1 SJR17  
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3 By Senator Dial  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 09-FEB-17

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8 COMMENDING ALTON R. BARNES, SR., FOR OUTSTANDING  
9 SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein proudly  
12 presented to Alton R. Barnes, Sr., for outstanding service to  
13 the State of Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, Alton R. Barnes, Sr., learned the  
15 importance of hard work while growing up on a dairy farm near  
16 the cotton mill town of Sycamore, Alabama; he served with much  
17 honor as a member of the 158th Regiment Combat Team in the  
18 Pacific Theater during World War II; upon returning home, he  
19 obtained many life milestones including marrying his wife,  
20 joining the Alabama National Guard as a second lieutenant,  
21 finishing high school, and entering Jacksonville State  
22 University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in  
23 Education; and

24 WHEREAS, Alton R. Barnes, Sr., taught for one year  
25 at the high school level; he was called into active duty a  
26 second time and served in Japan during the Korean War; after  
27 his service, he returned to the Alabama Army National Guard

1 and later went to work with the Guard full time in Talladega,  
2 Alabama, as a command administrative assistant; in 1956, he  
3 was selected by the Guard's Adjutant General to organize the  
4 Alabama Guard's first officer candidate school, the Alabama  
5 Military Academy; he commanded the program for more than 20  
6 years; his leadership and dedication to the program of  
7 training future officers known as AMA (Alabama Military  
8 Academy) impacted the quality of the leadership in the Alabama  
9 National Guard; this quality of leadership allowed Alabama to  
10 be recognized as the best State National Guard organization in  
11 America during those years; the direct influence provided by  
12 Colonel Barnes to hundreds of individuals has allowed them to  
13 be successful not only as military leaders but leaders in  
14 their communities, counties, and our state; these individuals  
15 saw their lives drastically improved by Colonel Barnes  
16 leadership; he retired with the rank of Colonel while serving  
17 as Assistant Adjutant General of Alabama; and

18 WHEREAS, four years later, Alton R. Barnes, Sr.,  
19 entered his appointment as Assistant Administrator of the ABC  
20 Board, and retired after three years of service; during  
21 retirement, he has been active volunteering and benefitting  
22 seniors through his magnanimous actions; he was inducted into  
23 the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1996 and received a Senior  
24 Achievement Award in 1998; for 20 years, he volunteered with  
25 Baptist Hospital's Senior Advantage Program; notably, he  
26 organized and oversaw the hospital's first fun time band and  
27 visited nursing homes and rest facilities for 16 years; a

1 faithful and devoted Christian, he continues to sing with  
2 Frazer Memorial's Older Adult Choir and substitutes teaching  
3 Sunday School at 93 years of age; and

4 WHEREAS, through the years, Alton R. Barnes, Sr.,  
5 has earned widespread admiration and respect for his tireless  
6 dedication and exceptional abilities, and he is truly  
7 deserving of special commendation and praise; now therefore,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
9 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Alton R. Barnes, Sr., is  
10 highly honored and commended, and this resolution is offered  
11 to him in deepest admiration and appreciation for his  
12 invaluable service to the State of Alabama, as well as in  
13 sincere best wishes for the future.