

1 HJR395
2 193109-1
3 By Representative Mooney
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 13-MAR-18

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8 RECOGNIZING DENVER SHA-VONNE BENJAMIN ON HER
9 SELECTION AS A 2018 YOUNG HERO OF ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations
12 are herein proudly presented to Denver Sha-Vonne Benjamin on
13 her outstanding achievement of being selected as a 2018 Young
14 Hero of Alabama; and

15 WHEREAS, the Young Heroes Program, presented by
16 Alabama Public Television, recognizes students in grades 9-12
17 who have excelled in academics, given of themselves through
18 public service, overcome adversity, or inspired others through
19 deeds and strength of character; and

20 WHEREAS, Denver is an outstanding senior at Cherokee
21 High School in Cherokee, Alabama; she is a shining example of
22 excellence in scholarship and service; and

23 WHEREAS, in the 8th grade, Denver was diagnosed with
24 lupus, a systemic autoimmune disease that causes her body's
25 immune system to attack its own tissue and organs, affecting
26 her joints, kidneys, blood cells, brain, heart, and lungs; in
27 spite of her diagnosis, Denver remained actively involved at

1 her school in academics, athletics, cheerleading, and many
2 other extracurricular activities; and

3 WHEREAS, in January of Denver's 10th grade year, she
4 experienced a stroke that caused brain damage, a huge setback
5 for an active young woman; she had to relearn many activities
6 and tasks that are often taken for granted, including walking,
7 talking, brushing her teeth, feeding and bathing herself; she
8 also experienced loss of short-term memory, the inability to
9 read and retain new information, and lost her athletic
10 abilities; and

11 WHEREAS, determined as ever to overcome the effects
12 of her stroke, Denver worked diligently in therapy and in
13 careful coordination with her doctors and by the beginning of
14 the next school year she was able to return full-time to
15 school; by her senior year she was not only playing
16 volleyball, basketball, and softball, but was the captain of
17 the cheerleading squad and the varsity volleyball and softball
18 teams, as well as president of the student council and her
19 school's chapter of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes;
20 academically she has risen to the occasion and is ranked 6th
21 in her senior class of 50 students; and

22 WHEREAS, Denver's will to live and determination to
23 overcome her obstacles in such extraordinary circumstances
24 have been inspiring to all of those who know Denver; she plans
25 to attend college and pursue a career as a neonatal nurse; and

26 WHEREAS, a worthy role model for countless young
27 Alabamians, Denver espouses the meritorious characteristics of

1 the Young Heroes Program, and she is truly deserving of
2 special commendation and praise; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Denver Sha-Vonne Benjamin is
5 honored and commended, and this resolution is offered to her
6 in highest tribute and with heartiest congratulations, as well
7 as in sincere best wishes for continued success in all future
8 endeavors.