

1 SR106  
2 193370-1  
3 By Senator Waggoner  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 15-MAR-18

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7  
8 COMMENDING COLONEL CARL COOPER FOR DISTINGUISHED  
9 MILITARY SERVICE AND HONORING HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 98TH  
10 BIRTHDAY.

11  
12 WHEREAS, it is a tremendous privilege to recognize  
13 Colonel Carl Cooper for his distinguished military service and  
14 honor him on the momentous occasion of his 98th Birthday; and

15 WHEREAS, Colonel Carl Cooper was born March 18,  
16 1920, in Clanton, Alabama, to the union of John Wiley and  
17 Mattie Hawkins Cooper; he attended Chilton County High School,  
18 where he served as Class President and as Captain,  
19 quarterback, and fullback for the football team and graduated  
20 in 1940; and

21 WHEREAS, Colonel Cooper earned a full football  
22 scholarship to Howard College, now Samford University, and  
23 graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology in 1943; he  
24 enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on April 1, 1942,  
25 and completed his training at Paris Island, South Carolina;  
26 and

1           WHEREAS, he received selection for Officer Candidate  
2 School and was commissioned Second Lieutenant on September 2,  
3 1944; he became a member of the 6th Marine Division, which was  
4 formed on Guadalcanal to locate close with and destroy the  
5 enemy by fire preparing for the invasion of Japan; and

6           WHEREAS, the Invasion of Okinawa on April 1, 1945,  
7 was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific Theater of  
8 World War II, and the Battle of Okinawa was the bloodiest of  
9 the Pacific War with 55,162 American casualties and 14,009  
10 killed; First Lieutenant Cooper led the 3rd Platoon, C Company  
11 in 84 days of combat to capture the highest mountain on  
12 Okinawa, Mount Yae-Take, and then Sugar Loaf; and

13           WHEREAS, before crossing the Aswa Kawa River, First  
14 Lieutenant Cooper and his Platoon were hit by enemy bombs; his  
15 unit received a Presidential Unit Citation, and five of his  
16 men earned Silver Stars and Purple Hearts; blown backwards,  
17 First Lieutenant Cooper landed on coral and incurred severe  
18 injury to his back and hip; and

19           WHEREAS, he did not include his own injuries in the  
20 After Action Report that resulted in his men being decorated;  
21 the battle ended June 22, 1945, and First Lieutenant Cooper  
22 left the island on July 4, 1945; he was released from active  
23 duty on January 26, 1946, and began teaching and coaching at  
24 Marion High School in Perry County, Alabama; under his expert  
25 guidance and leadership, the basketball team made five  
26 consecutive state basketball tournament appearances; and

1           WHEREAS, in late 1953, Captain Cooper returned to  
2 active duty at Camp Pendleton in California during the Korean  
3 War; he earned his Master's Degree in Education from  
4 Vanderbilt in 1953 and contributed exceptional direction as  
5 Principal of Carbon Hill High School from 1955 until 1957; in  
6 1958, he was asked to assist in the development of a city  
7 school system, and he acquiesced; once the school system was  
8 established, the newly formed board of education named him as  
9 the first principal of Mountain Brook School; Major Cooper  
10 returned to active duty in 1968 during the Vietnam War; he  
11 remained on active duty and as a member of the Marine Reserves  
12 until his retirement April 1, 1980; and

13           WHEREAS, Colonel Cooper provided 38 years of  
14 remarkable service to the United States Marine Corps; he  
15 earned numerous awards and accolades including the Expert  
16 Rifle Badge, Expert Pistol Badge, American Campaign Medal  
17 (WWII), American Defense Medal (WWII), Presidential Unit  
18 Citation with One Star, the Asia-Pacific Campaign Medal with  
19 Two Stars, (WWII), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Legion  
20 of Merit Officer, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (WWII  
21 Style), National Defense Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps  
22 Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Marine Corps  
23 Medal with Four Stars, Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal,  
24 United Nations Medal, World War II Victory Medal, World War II  
25 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal, and World War II Victory  
26 in the Pacific 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal; and

1           WHEREAS, in 1980, he was recruited to join FEMA and  
2 worked disasters nationwide for 30 years; he joined the  
3 Masonic Order in 1946, became a Shriner in 1948, and is a  
4 loyal supporter of the Shriner's Children's Hospital; he  
5 married his college sweetheart, the late Jimmie Anna Rutledge,  
6 on June 6, 1943, and they had two children, the late James  
7 Carl Cooper, a United States Marine; and the late Charlotte  
8 Cooper Fant; Colonel Cooper has the utmost distinction of  
9 being the oldest member of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in  
10 Vestavia Hills; and

11           WHEREAS, through the years, Colonel Cooper earned  
12 widespread admiration and respect for his unwavering  
13 commitment to excellence in the defense of freedom and  
14 democracy; it is truly an honor to uplift such an  
15 extraordinary individual on the occasion of his 98th Birthday,  
16 a significant milestone that represents precious years of  
17 wisdom earned and memories gained; now therefore,

18           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF  
19 ALABAMA, That Colonel Carl Cooper is highly honored and  
20 commended on the occasion of his 98th Birthday, and this  
21 resolution is offered to him in deepest admiration and  
22 appreciation for his immeasurable service, as well as with  
23 sincere best wishes for continued blessings, happiness, and  
24 prosperity.