

1 HR60
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3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 25-FEB-20

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8 HONORING NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE
9 JAMES E. WEST FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

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11 WHEREAS, with great pleasure, we recognize and honor
12 National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductee James E. West for his
13 accomplishments; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. West invented the electret microphone,
15 U.S. Patent Number 3,118,022, and was inducted into the
16 National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1999; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1962, Mr. West and Gerhard Sessler
18 patented the electret microphone while working at Bell
19 Laboratories; due to the microphone's high performance,
20 accuracy, reliability, low cost, small size, and light weight,
21 it became widely used; 90 percent of the microphones that are
22 used today are electret, and they are found in telephones,
23 sound and music recording equipment, and hearing aids; and

24 WHEREAS, born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, Mr.
25 West attended Temple University and worked as an intern at
26 Bell Laboratories during his summer breaks; upon earning his
27 degree in 1957, he became an employee of the company and

1 worked in the areas of electroacoustics, physical acoustics,
2 and architectural acoustics; and

3 WHEREAS, he is a Fellow of Institute of Electrical
4 and Electronics Engineers, a recipient of the George R.
5 Stibitz Trophy, holds over 200 U.S. and foreign patents, was
6 awarded the 2006 National Medal of Technology, and is an
7 advocate for science education, particularly among minority
8 students; and

9 WHEREAS, a leader and an inspiration to many, Mr.
10 West has stated, "Failure is a learning process too often
11 ignored for its true value"; now therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
13 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That National Inventors Hall of
14 Fame Inductee James E. West is warmly honored, and we hereby
15 dedicate this resolution to him with utmost gratitude and
16 admiration.