

1 HJR7
2 215077-1
3 By Representative Kiel
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 27-SEP-21

HONORING MR. CECIL BATCHELOR FOR HIS SERVICE AND
PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, it is a privilege to highly honor Mr. Cecil Batchelor, a dedicated and remarkable businessman of Russellville, Alabama, for diligently serving and bettering the communities and organizations of which he has been a part; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Batchelor was born on June 3, 1925, as the youngest of seven children to L.M. and Mary Batchelor; Mr. Batchelor developed a desire to serve others at a very young age; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Phillips High School in Bear Creek, Alabama, Mr. Batchelor decided to join the United States Navy but had to wait three months before he could officially join; during his waiting period, he transported fruit from orchards in Florida to their processing plants, which allowed him to make a small profit; he also worked at T.H. Little Mercantile Company in Haleyville,

1 Alabama, where he met the love of his life, Olivia Robinson;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, after 12 weeks of basic training in the
4 United States Navy, Mr. Batchelor was stationed stateside
5 during World War II, with his ship's company patrolling out of
6 Williamsburg, Virginia; as he patrolled for submarines and
7 protected the area from potential attacks, he took great pride
8 in serving his country and always looked for additional ways
9 to help others; he found an opportunity to change the entire
10 future for German Prisoner of War, Georg Giersberg, whom he
11 had befriended during his service; and

12 WHEREAS, after the war was over, Mr. Batchelor
13 returned home, and he and Olivia were married; thereafter, Mr.
14 Batchelor enrolled at Florence State Teachers College, now
15 known as The University of North Alabama, in Florence,
16 Alabama, with the desire to become an educator; during his
17 time in college, he received an offer from a close friend and
18 businessman to go into the automobile industry; Mr. Batchelor
19 soon joined Jimmy Gentle, the owner of Dependable Motor
20 Company, a local car dealership in Russellville; Mr. Batchelor
21 was first a sales manager and then eventually became co-owner
22 of the company; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Batchelor settled into their
24 lives in Russellville, and two children were born to their
25 union, Greg and Rebecca; furthermore, Mr. and Mrs. Batchelor
26 were active in their church, First United Methodist Church of
27 Russellville, where they served as Youth Directors and where

1 Mr. Batchelor also served as a Sunday School Teacher and as a
2 founding member of the longstanding Earnest Workers Sunday
3 School Class; some of his other acts of service performed over
4 the decades include representing Franklin County on the
5 Alabama Tuberculosis Association Board; being an organizing
6 member of the Diabetes Trust Fund in Birmingham, Alabama; and
7 serving as Chairman of the Russellville City School Board,
8 where he made decisions that positively affected students and
9 teachers in Russellville; and

10 WHEREAS, some of Mr. Batchelor's other
11 accomplishments include being elected to the Board of
12 Directors for Citizens Bank in 1964, where he eventually began
13 serving as the Chairman of the Board, staying in this position
14 for over 50 years; greatly improving Citizens Bank in various
15 ways; gathering a group of Haleyville citizens together to
16 create Haleyville's Savings and Loan Bank, which later merged
17 with Savings and Loan Bank of Alabama; changing the name of
18 Citizens Bank to CB and S Bank; and helping the bank grow from
19 one branch in Russellville to an impressive 57 branches across
20 Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee; Mr. Batchelor retired as
21 Chairman of the CB and S Bank Board of Directors in May 2016;
22 he has remained on the CB and S Board of Directors as Director
23 and Chairman Emeritus; currently, he serves as Chairman of CB
24 and S Bank-Corp, the official holding company for CB and S
25 Bank; and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Martin
26 Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee, where he also serves
27 as a member of the Finance and Building Committees; and

1 WHEREAS, civically, Mr. Batchelor is currently
2 thought to be the longest serving Civitan member in the State
3 of Alabama, at 72 years of service, which included time spent
4 as the President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Russellville
5 Civitan Club; furthermore, he organized and was the first
6 President of the Russellville Industrial Board, the
7 Russellville Jaycees, and the Russellville Merchant
8 Association; his accolades over the years include being named
9 Russellville's Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Citizen of the
10 Year for Franklin County, and Citizen of the Year for
11 Russellville; and being inducted into the Franklin County
12 Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Batchelor is the epitome of unwavering
14 selflessness, dedication, and expertise; an incredible man and
15 inspiration, he is deeply loved and appreciated by many and is
16 very deserving of special recognition; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Mr. Cecil Batchelor is highly
19 honored for his numerous acts of serving others and his
20 impressive achievements, and this resolution hereby serves as
21 a tribute to him with heartiest gratitude, admiration, and
22 regard.