

1 HJR170  
2 218889-2  
3 By Representative Clouse  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 15-MAR-22

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,  
3 ESTABLISHING THE RON CREEL HEALING HANDS AWARD IN  
4 ALABAMA.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Ron Creel has lived, worked, and served  
7 Alabama with distinction for 66 years; and

8 WHEREAS, Ron Creel has served Alabama faithfully in  
9 business in the industries of insurance, banking, real estate,  
10 and retail, starting in 1962; and

11 WHEREAS, Ron Creel served the United States of  
12 America and the Great State of Alabama from 1963 to 1970 in  
13 the Alabama Air National Guard both as an enlisted man and as  
14 an officer; and

15 WHEREAS, Ron Creel served the Great State of Alabama  
16 as a member of the Alabama State Board of Education from 1979  
17 to 1983; and

18 WHEREAS, Ron Creel has volunteered his time and  
19 talents to nonprofit organizations in Alabama from 1972 to  
20 2005 and also served in leadership roles to these nonprofit  
21 organizations, including as Chairman of the Central Alabama  
22 Opportunities Industrialization Center Board of Directors from  
23 1972 to 1979; Chairman of the Alabama Elks Foundation,  
24 alongside Mr. E.D. Nixon, from 1972 to 1978; State President  
25 of the Alabama Elks Association from 1976 to 1977; member of

1 the State Board of the American Cancer Society, Alabama  
2 Division, for two 2-year terms; member of the Board of  
3 Directors of the Alabama Chapter of the Leukemia Society of  
4 America from 1968 to 1984; State President of the Alabama  
5 Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America from 1975 to 1977;  
6 member of the National Board of Directors of the Leukemia  
7 Society of America from 1978 to 1984; National Officer of the  
8 National Executive Committee of the Leukemia Society of  
9 America from 1978 to 1984; member of the Board of Directors of  
10 The Diabetes Trust Fund from 1990 to 2005; member of the  
11 Executive Committee of the Diabetes Trust Fund from 1991 to  
12 2005; National Vice President of The Diabetes Trust Fund for  
13 two 2-year terms; and National President of The Diabetes Trust  
14 Fund for two 2-year terms; and

15 WHEREAS, honors have been bestowed on Ron Creel for  
16 his work and service, including by being selected as the  
17 Montgomery Association Insurance Man of the Year in 1970 and  
18 as the Alabama Association Insurance Man of the Year in 1971;  
19 being recognized by Reverend Leon Sullivan, Founder of the  
20 Central Alabama Opportunities Industrialization Center, as the  
21 First Caucasian in the Nation to Chair an Opportunities  
22 Industrialization Center in 1979; being presented with The  
23 Diabetes Trust Fund, Senator Hinton Mitchem Distinguished  
24 Service Award in 2003; and being awarded The Honorary Degree

1 of Doctor of Laws from The University of West Alabama in 2004;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, at the request of the United States Olympic  
4 Committee, now the United States Olympic and Paralympic  
5 Committee, Ron Creel founded in Alabama in 1982 the Alabama  
6 Sports Festival Foundation, a nonprofit organization to expose  
7 athletes, volunteers, and spectators of all ages and  
8 abilities, especially our youth, to Olympic sports and the  
9 overall Olympic experience with all its tradition and  
10 ceremony; and

11 WHEREAS, the Alabama Sports Festival Foundation's  
12 Alabama State Games has grown into the largest multi-sport  
13 event held annually in Alabama, serving, since its inception,  
14 more than 100,000 of Alabama's amateur athletes of all ages  
15 and abilities and providing significant economic impact for  
16 the host cities, which have included Auburn, Bayou La Batre,  
17 Birmingham, Daleville, Daphne, Decatur, Dothan, Enterprise,  
18 Fort Rucker, Homewood, Hoover, Huntsville, Mobile, Montevallo,  
19 Mountain Brook, Ozark, Pelham, Pritchard, Saraland, Sylacauga,  
20 Theodore, Troy, Trussville, and Vestavia Hills, and host  
21 counties, which have included Baldwin, Coffee, Dale, Houston,  
22 Jefferson, Lee, Madison, Mobile, Morgan, Pike, Shelby, and  
23 Talladega; and

24 WHEREAS, while growing the Alabama State Games, Ron  
25 Creel served as National President, National Congress of State

1 Games from 2001 to 2003 and as a member of the Board of  
2 Directors of the United States Olympic Committee from 2001 to  
3 2004; and

4 WHEREAS, the Alabama Sports Festival Foundation has,  
5 for 39 years, encouraged Alabamians to participate in sports  
6 and fitness programs for personal health enrichment and has  
7 emphasized the importance of academic excellence and the  
8 values of good citizenship; and

9 WHEREAS, through the leadership of Ron Creel and his  
10 belief that all Alabamians, especially Alabama youth, deserve  
11 opportunity for success, the Alabama Sports Festival  
12 Foundation has invested in community programs such as Help  
13 Eliminate Law-Breaking Pushers, an 800 number that allows  
14 everyone the opportunity to anonymously report criminal  
15 activity to law enforcement; Wee Can Fight Obesity, an  
16 investment of \$850,000 to elementary physical education  
17 classes that provides Wii Gaming Console and Games as a unique  
18 electronic, animated exercise program to at least one public  
19 elementary school in all 67 Alabama counties, and to date has  
20 invested \$318,000 in academic scholarships that, once  
21 enrolled, scholarship recipients can apply to any post-high  
22 school program, including trade schools, two-year colleges,  
23 four-year colleges, or universities; and

24 WHEREAS, since 2001, the Alabama Sports Festival  
25 Foundation has, in some years, awarded The Healing Hands Award

1 as recognition of unique actions by an individual or  
2 individuals to promote the concept of healing, grace, comfort,  
3 and inspiration to those who have been struck by disaster,  
4 both natural and man-made, by responding to the needs of a  
5 neighbor, friend, or stranger, and thus motivating others to  
6 greater achievement; and

7 WHEREAS, past recipients of The Healing Hands Award  
8 include President George W. Bush (2002), New York City Mayor  
9 Rudolph Giuliani (2002), Mobile Mayor Michael C. Dow (2005),  
10 World War II Hero Major Bert Bank (2007), Florida State  
11 Football Coach Bobby Bowden (2008), Alabama Speaker of the  
12 House Seth Hammett (2010), Alabama Education Association Dr.  
13 Paul R. Hubbard (2010), Alabama State Senator Hinton Mitchem  
14 (2010), Navy Seal Team Six Founder Richard Marcinko (2011),  
15 Troy University Band Director Emeritus John M. Long, Sr.  
16 (2013), and Dr. Swaid N. Swaid, Renowned Neurological Surgeon  
17 and Humanitarian (2018); and

18 WHEREAS, the Alabama Sports Festival Foundation  
19 Board of Directors has voted to rename The Healing Hands Award  
20 to The Ron Creel Healing Hands Award for Ron Creel's many  
21 years of service to Alabama through the Alabama Sports  
22 Festival Foundation, which contributes to the overall  
23 well-being and strength of Alabama; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
25 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby commend the Alabama

1 Sports Festival Foundation Board of Directors for establishing  
2 the Ron Creel Healing Hands Award, and we direct that copies  
3 of this resolution shall be provided to the Alabama Sports  
4 Festival Foundation.

