

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

ESTABLISHING THE RON CREEL HEALING HANDS AWARD IN
ALABAMA.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Ron Creel has volunteered his time and
talents to nonprofit organizations in Alabama from 1972 to
2005 and also served in leadership roles to these nonprofit
organizations, including as Chairman of the Central Alabama
Opportunities Industrialization Center Board of Directors from

1 1972 to 1979; Chairman of the Alabama Elks Foundation,
2 alongside Mr. E.D. Nixon, from 1972 to 1978; State President
3 of the Alabama Elks Association from 1976 to 1977; member of
4 the State Board of the American Cancer Society, Alabama
5 Division, for two 2-year terms; member of the Board of
6 Directors of the Alabama Chapter of the Leukemia Society of
7 America from 1968 to 1984; State President of the Alabama
8 Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America from 1975 to 1977;
9 member of the National Board of Directors of the Leukemia
10 Society of America from 1978 to 1984; National Officer of the
11 National Executive Committee of the Leukemia Society of
12 America from 1978 to 1984; member of the Board of Directors of
13 The Diabetes Trust Fund from 1990 to 2005; member of the
14 Executive Committee of the Diabetes Trust Fund from 1991 to
15 2005; National Vice President of The Diabetes Trust Fund for
16 two 2-year terms; and National President of The Diabetes Trust
17 Fund for two 2-year terms; and

18 WHEREAS, honors have been bestowed on Ron Creel for
19 his work and service, including by being selected as the
20 Montgomery Association Insurance Man of the Year in 1970 and
21 as the Alabama Association Insurance Man of the Year in 1971;
22 being recognized by Reverend Leon Sullivan, Founder of the
23 Central Alabama Opportunities Industrialization Center, as the
24 First Caucasian in the Nation to Chair an Opportunities
25 Industrialization Center in 1979; being presented with The
26 Diabetes Trust Fund, Senator Hinton Mitchem Distinguished
27 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
26 Games from 2001 to 2003 and as a member of the Board of

1 Directors of the United States Olympic Committee from 2001 to
2 2004; and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, since 2001, the Alabama Sports Festival
24 Foundation has, in some years, awarded The Healing Hands Award
25 as recognition of unique actions by an individual or
26 individuals to promote the concept of healing, grace, comfort,
27 and inspiration to those who have been struck by disaster,

1 both natural and man-made, by responding to the needs of a
2 neighbor, friend, or stranger, and thus motivating others to
3 greater achievement; and

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

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

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby commend the Alabama
23 Sports Festival Foundation Board of Directors for establishing
24 the Ron Creel Healing Hands Award, and we direct that copies
25 of this resolution shall be provided to the Alabama Sports
26 Festival Foundation.