

1 HJR49
2 217230-1
3 By Representative Shaver
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 08-FEB-22

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8 COMMENDING THE WINNERS OF THE GREAT ALABAMA 650
9 RACE.

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11 WHEREAS, the Alabama Scenic River Trail (ASRT) was
12 established in 2008 and designated by the United States
13 Secretary of Interior as a National Recreational Trail in
14 2009, and a National Water Trail in 2012; and

15 WHEREAS, the Alabama Scenic River Trail originally
16 extended for 650 miles and was designated as the longest
17 one-state river trail starting in North Alabama on the Coosa
18 River's Weiss Lake and ending at Fort Morgan, Alabama, where
19 Mobile Bay meets the Gulf of Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Alabama Scenic River Trail is
21 comprised of more than 6,500 miles of accessible waterways and
22 has helped to develop over 60 canoe and kayak rental shops and
23 outfitters to promote the Great Natural Resources of the State
24 of Alabama and contribute to the state's trail system economy;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, the Alabama Scenic River Trail is operated
27 by a small team of employees and a network of volunteers; it

1 has developed statewide safety and educational initiatives,
2 more than 200 river-front campsites, and with grant funds,
3 erected more than 200 informational signs on waterways across
4 the state; and

5 WHEREAS, to further the goals of the Alabama Scenic
6 River Trail, the Great Alabama 650 adventure race was
7 inaugurated in 2019 along the original 650-mile section of the
8 ASRT drawing international attention, including over 1,000,000
9 "impressions" from news stories and social media posts; and

10 WHEREAS, the race was held for a third year in 2021;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, winners in the race and their winning times
13 were: Two-Person team, Joe Mann from Kansas City, Missouri,
14 and Paul Cox from Atlanta, Georgia, 4 days, 2 hours, and 17
15 minutes; Male solo, West Hansen from Austin, Texas, 5 days, 19
16 hours, and 9 minutes; and Female solo, Salli O'Donnell from
17 Fort Walton Beach, Florida, 4 days, 22 hours, and 39 minutes;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, this body recognizes the skill,
20 perseverance, and mental and physical toughness of all
21 participants, and particularly of the division winners; now
22 therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the division winners of the
25 Great Alabama 650 Race are highly commended for this
26 achievement, and that a copy of this resolution shall be sent

1 to the Alabama Scenic River Trail office headquarters and to
2 each of the division winners.