

1 HR258  
2 219717-1  
3 By Representative Gray  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 05-APR-22

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8 HONORING DR. PATSY PARKER FOR SERVING ON THE OPELIKA  
9 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR 25 YEARS.

10  
11 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, we  
12 highly honor Dr. Patsy Parker for diligently and passionately  
13 serving on the Opelika Industrial Development Board for 25  
14 years and for her many other professional achievements; and

15 WHEREAS, over the years, Dr. Parker has inspired  
16 thousands of students in Opelika schools and at Southern Union  
17 State Community College, and she has also been dedicated to  
18 her community by volunteering in numerous organizations; on  
19 March 8, 2022, she was honored for serving on the Opelika  
20 Industrial Development Board for 25 years; her son, Billy  
21 Parker, was named to the board to fill the vacancy as he  
22 follows in his parents' legacy of service; and

23 WHEREAS, after graduating from J.W. Darden High  
24 School at 16, Dr. Parker became the first full-time black  
25 secretary at the school and attended Alabama State University  
26 during the summer months; while attending college, she met  
27 William Parker, and they were married in 1957 when Mr. Parker

1 graduated and Dr. Parker was a junior; Dr. Parker was active  
2 in various honor societies and graduated with honors; along  
3 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Studies and  
4 Physical Education from Alabama State University, she also  
5 earned a Master of Science Degree in Counselor Education from  
6 Auburn University and a Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree  
7 from Auburn University; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Parker began her teaching career at  
9 Jeter School, and she later taught at Darden High School and  
10 was a part-time counselor; after the schools were integrated,  
11 she became the first black counselor at Opelika High School;  
12 both she and her husband served on the Parent-Teacher  
13 Association as Presidents, and when the Boys and Girls Club  
14 was organized, the Parkers were on the first board and the  
15 Youth Development Board; after retiring from Opelika City  
16 Schools, Dr. Parker became an advisor and consultant at  
17 Southern Union State Community College; additionally, she was  
18 a member of Southern Union State Community College's  
19 Foundation Board for many years and the Opelika City Board of  
20 Education, where she served as Chair; and

21 WHEREAS, some of Dr. Parker's other achievements  
22 over the decades include serving as the first female Chair of  
23 the Alabama State University Board of Trustees for over 28  
24 years; being presented as Auburn University's first Trustee  
25 Emeritus at her 50th Class Reunion in 2010; being a member of  
26 the College of Education's National Alumni Advisory Council at  
27 Auburn University since 1979, where she organized the first

1 black sorority, the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma  
2 Theta; being named Woman of the Year in Opelika in 1991;  
3 receiving the Woman of Achievement Award by the Camp Concharty  
4 Council of Girl Scouts of America; receiving the Opelika  
5 Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award in 2016; and  
6 serving numerous other boards and organizations; and

7 WHEREAS, a woman whose steadfast selflessness and  
8 unwavering commitment continue to lead and inspire countless  
9 lives, Dr. Parker is deeply loved and appreciated by many; now  
10 therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
12 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Dr. Patsy Parker is highly  
13 honored for diligently and passionately serving on the Opelika  
14 Industrial Development Board for 25 years and for her many  
15 other professional achievements, and we hereby dedicate this  
16 resolution to her with heartiest gratitude, admiration, and  
17 regard.