

SJR4 INTRODUCED



1 7B73EE-1

2 By Senators Reed, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,
3 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,
4 Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger,
5 Hatcher, Holley, Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Livingston, Marsh,
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts, Sanders-Fortier,
7 Scofield, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Whatley, Williams

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 07-Mar-23

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SJR___ RECOGNIZING MARCH AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND
HONORING THE WOMEN OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, Women's History Month began as a national celebration in March 1981; in 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress designated the month of March as Women's History Month; Women's History Month celebrates the contributions women have made to the United States and recognizes the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields; and

WHEREAS, many women from the State of Alabama have been influential in contributing to the history and future of both our state and nation through their achievements in science, government, social change, athletics, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, in state government, our current Governor, Kay Ivey, is the longest serving woman governor in our state's history and the second woman elected to that office after Lurleen Wallace, who, in her short time in office, was an advocate for state parks and education; their service was preceded by the first woman elected to the House of Representatives of the Alabama State Legislature in 1923, suffragist Hattie Hooker Wilkins; and

WHEREAS, there are 24 distinguished women currently



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29 serving in the Alabama State Legislature; Senators, Merika
30 Coleman, Linda Coleman-Madison, Vivian Davis Figures, and
31 April Weaver; and Representatives, Cynthia Almond, Barbara
32 Boyd, Adline Clarke, Terri Collins, Barbara Drummond, Susan
33 DuBose, Jennifer Fidler, Juandalyn Givan, Donna Givens,
34 Laura Hall, Francis Holk-Jones, Rolanda Hollis, Leigh
35 Hulsey, Patrice McClammy, Mary Moore, TaShina Morris, Ginny
36 Shaver, Pebblin W. Warren, Margie Wilcox, and Debbie Wood;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, in national government, Alabama women have
39 made their mark since the appointment of Dixie B. Graves to
40 the United States Senate in 1937; beginning her term of
41 service this year, the first woman from our state to be
42 elected to the U.S. Senate is Katie Britt; in the United
43 States House of Representatives, the first woman from
44 Alabama was elected in 1972, Elizabeth Andrews; in 2011,
45 voters elected the first African American Woman from
46 Alabama, Terri Sewell, to serve; and Condoleezza Rice served
47 as the 66th United States Secretary of State, the first
48 female African American appointed to that office, and she
49 was the first woman to serve in the position of National
50 Security Advisor to the President during George W. Bush's
51 first term in office; and

52 WHEREAS, in 1891, African American and Pennsylvania
53 native, Dr. Halle Tanner Dillon Johnson, moved to Alabama to
54 work at the Tuskegee Institute at the request of Booker T.
55 Washington and became the first woman of any race to be
56 licensed in Alabama to practice medicine; in 1916, Sister



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57 Chrysostom Moynahan became the first registered nurse
58 licensed in Alabama, founded St. Vincent's School of
59 Nursing, and led Sisters and lay nurses, known as the Loyola
60 Unit, to Italy during the first World War and was decorated
61 by the governments of both the U.S. and Italy for her
62 bravery; and Dr. May Jemison was the first African American
63 female astronaut to travel in space on the Space Shuttle
64 Endeavor as the science mission specialist; and

65 WHEREAS, many champion athletes hail from Alabama,
66 including Olympians, Jennifer Chandler, Alabama's first
67 female winner of an individual Olympic gold medal; Vonetta
68 Flowers, the first African American and first Black athlete
69 from any country to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics;
70 and Mia Hamm, professional soccer player, two-time Olympic
71 gold medalist, and two-time FIFA Women's World Cup champion,
72 who also advocates for women in sports; and

73 WHEREAS, Alabama has produced two Pulitzer Prize
74 winners, Harper Lee, who authored "To Kill A Mockingbird,"
75 and journalist Cynthia Tucker, who was a Pulitzer finalist
76 in 2004 and 2006 and won the honor in 2007 in the commentary
77 category; Octavia Spencer and Louise Fletcher are winners of
78 the Academy Award, and Octavia is the first African American
79 actress to receive two consecutive Oscar nominations; Grammy
80 Award nominees and winners from Alabama include Candi
81 Staton, Martha Reeves, Dinah Washington, and Emmylou Harris;
82 and the icon and embodiment of the liberated woman of the
83 "Roaring 20s," Zelda Fitzgerald, was an author, painter, and
84 socialite from Montgomery; and



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85 WHEREAS, some of the most notable women from Alabama
86 worked for the betterment of others through advocacy and
87 social reform, including Helen Keller, who was the first
88 deaf-blind person to earn a bachelor of arts degree, an
89 author, disability rights advocate, and political activist;
90 Julia Tutwiler, who advocated for education and prison
91 reform and was the first and only woman president of
92 Livingston Normal College, now the University of West
93 Alabama; and Rosa Parks, whose courageous refusal to give up
94 her seat on a Montgomery bus and subsequent arrest launched
95 the Civil Rights Movement; and

96 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize these
97 trailblazing women from the State of Alabama for their
98 outstanding contributions to the state and our nation; now
99 therefore,

100 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
101 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That March is recognized as
102 Women's History Month, and this resolution is offered to
103 honor and celebrate those women who serve as role models and
104 leaders in science, government, industry, social reform,
105 athletics, and the arts, and especially those notable women
106 of Alabama, with our greatest respect and admiration for all
107 they have done and will continue to do.