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2 A4DEQS7-1

3 By Representatives Chestnut, Bedsole, Lawrence, Gray, Robbins

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5 RFD: RULES

6 First Read: 06-Feb-24



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HJR_____ CONGRATULATING GUNNAR RANDAL HENDERSON FOR WINNING THE SILVER SLUGGER AWARD AND THE 2023 JACKIE ROBINSON AMERICAN LEAGUE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, highest commendations and congratulations are conveyed to Gunnar Randal Henderson, a native son of Alabama, on being awarded the Silver Slugger Award and unanimously winning the 2023 Jackie Robinson American League Rookie of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Gunnar Henderson was born on June 29, 2001, in Montgomery, Alabama; he grew up in Selma and attended John T. Morgan Academy; in 2019, his senior year in high school, he was named Alabama Sports Writers Association's Mr. Baseball and selected as the Gatorade Player of the Year for Alabama; furthermore, he was named to the Under Armour, Perfect Game, Baseball America, USA Today, Collegiate Baseball, and Area Code High School All-American teams after batting .559 with 17 doubles, nine triples, 11 home runs, 69 runs scored, and 75 RBIs while stealing 32 bases; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore Orioles selected Henderson in the second round of the 2019 Major League Baseball (MLB) draft with the 42nd overall pick; and

WHEREAS, Henderson was named the best overall athlete in the Orioles' minor league system going into the 2021



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29 season, where he played over 105 games between three teams
30 slashing .258/.350/.476 with 17 home runs, 74 RBIs, 28
31 doubles, and 16 stolen bases; for the 2022 season, Henderson
32 was named Baseball America's Minor League Player of the
33 Year; and

34 WHEREAS, the Orioles promoted Gunnar Henderson to
35 their major league roster and he made his debut on August
36 31, 2022; and

37 WHEREAS, Gunnar Henderson was named the number one
38 prospect in Major League Baseball going into the 2023 season
39 by Baseball America and MLB Pipeline, and from there he has
40 won the following prestigious awards: Sporting News 2023
41 American League Rookie of the Year, MLB Pipeline's 2023
42 All-Rookie Team, Baseball Digest 2023 Rookie of the Year,
43 and 2023 MLB Players Association's Outstanding Rookie of the
44 Year; and

45 WHEREAS, the Baltimore Orioles infielder received the
46 Silver Slugger Award as the best hitting utility player in
47 the American League for the 2023 MLB season; voted on by MLB
48 managers and coaches, the Silver Slugger awards have been
49 presented annually since 1980 to the top offensive player at
50 each position in each league; and

51 WHEREAS, his incredible 2023 season culminated in his
52 unanimous win of one of the highest honors in Major League
53 Baseball, the 2023 Jackie Robinson American League Rookie of
54 the Year (ROY) Award, which is voted on by the Baseball
55 Writers' Association of America; he is the seventh Oriole to
56 win this prestigious ROY award; and



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57 WHEREAS, other notable MLB accomplishments include,
58 but are not limited to, hitting a 462-foot home run against
59 the Kansas City Royals, which was the farthest ever hit onto
60 Eutaw Street in the 31-year history of Camden Yards; setting
61 the Orioles' record for extra base hits by a rookie at 66,
62 and finishing the 2023 regular season with 28 home runs, 82
63 RBIs, .814 OPS, and a .255 AVG; and

64 WHEREAS, the occasion of Gunnar Henderson's
65 designation as winner of both the Silver Slugger Award and
66 the 2023 Jackie Robinson American League Rookie of the Year
67 Award are accomplishments to be celebrated; his
68 single-minded dedication, strong desire for success,
69 constant training, and tireless and diligent efforts to
70 achieve excellence serve as a valuable example to young
71 athletes across the country and in his home State of
72 Alabama; now therefore,

73 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
74 HOUSES THEROF CONCURRING, That we highly commend and
75 congratulate Gunnar Henderson for his outstanding 2023 Major
76 League Baseball Season and for being selected as the
77 recipient of the Silver Slugger Award and the 2023 Jackie
78 Robinson American League Rookie of the Year Award, and we
79 hereby dedicate this resolution to him with utmost
80 admiration, along with sincere best wishes for continued
81 success.