

HJR245 INTRODUCED



1 HJR245
2 66EY113-1
3 By Representatives Garrett, Shaw, Hulsey, Hollis, Sellers,
4 Faulkner
5 RFD: RULES
6 First Read: 30-Apr-24



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HJR___ COMMENDING MR. ALLEN GILLESPIE FOR HIS
PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IN
MUSIC EDUCATION ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure,
highest honors, commendations, and congratulations are
conveyed to Mr. Desmond Allen Gillespie after a five-decade
career that includes choral director positions with
Birmingham City Schools, Jefferson County Schools, and
Trussville City Schools at Wenonah High School (1973-1979),
Huffman High School (1976-1996), Clay-Chalkville High School
(1996-2009), and Hewitt-Trussville High School (2009-2024);
and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1976, Mr. Gillespie built the
Huffman High School choral department to include four
choirs; the Chansoniers, which is the men's ensemble; a
Mixed Ensemble; Girls' Chorale; and the Concert Choir; by
1996 an amazing 270 students were involved in the choral
program; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Mr. Gillespie had the privilege of
establishing the inaugural choral program at newly opened
Clay-Chalkville High School where he remained until his
first retirement in 2009; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Mr. Gillespie agreed to teach for
Trussville City Schools at Hewitt-Trussville High School,



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29 where he remained 15 years; during his tenure, Trussville
30 City Schools was selected six times as one of the Best
31 Communities for Music Education by the National Association
32 of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation; and

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie served as President of the
34 Alabama Choral Directors Association and the Alabama Vocal
35 Association; under his leadership, choirs and their members
36 have excelled at many high-profile choral events, including
37 Alabama All-State Choral Festivals, the Alabama Music
38 Educators Conference, and area showcases; he has directed
39 choirs regularly to superior ratings in performance and
40 sight reading at AVA competitions and national competitions;
41 outside of school concerts, the choirs have performed at
42 countless community events, professional sports events, and
43 made numerous appearances on local television in Birmingham,
44 Alabama; and

45 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie has also served as Choir
46 Director at Pinson Methodist (1979-1986), St. John's United
47 Methodist Church (1986-1991), Huffman First United Methodist
48 (1991-Present), Director of The Miss Alabama Singers and
49 background vocals since the 1980s, and co-director of the
50 Trussville Community Choir; and

51 WHEREAS, in 2023, Mr. Gillespie was named the
52 Trussville Tribune Person of the Year; and

53 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie attended and graduated from
54 Berry High School, now Hoover High School, and went on to
55 earn bachelor's, master's, and education specialist degrees
56 from the University of Montevallo; and



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57 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie and his wife of more than 40
58 years, Sula, have a son, Desi, and daughter-in-law, Emma;
59 Sula is a nurse practitioner in neurology at Children's of
60 Alabama.

61 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie, known as G or Mr. G, remains
62 beloved and highly esteemed by music educators, former
63 educators, and former students; now therefore,

64 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
65 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body regards, reveres,
66 and honors Allen Gillespie in the highest manner for his
67 numerous professional accolades and model citizenship; and,
68 along with best wishes for continued success during his
69 retirement, Representative Garrett and Senator Shellnutt
70 dedicate this resolution to him as an exemplary leader with
71 utmost respect, gratitude, and admiration for all that he
72 has done and accomplished for the State of Alabama, Wenonah
73 High School, Huffman High School, Clay-Chalkville High
74 School, Hewitt-Trussville High School, and the countless
75 lives that he has positively impacted through his
76 leadership.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
78 resolution be presented to Mr. Allen Gillespie and
79 Hewitt-Trussville High School as a demonstration of our
80 unrivalled gratitude, admiration, and respect.