

HR217 INTRODUCED



1 HR217
2 6YAY51Z-1
3 By Representative Mooney
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 08-Apr-25



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HR_____ COMMENDING BENJAMIN WORTHAM ON BEING NAMED AN ALABAMA
PUBLIC TELEVISION 2025 YOUNG HERO.

WHEREAS, since 2001, Alabama Public Television has honored those young heroes who have made their schools and communities better places; Benjamin Wortham of Madison, Alabama, is well-deserving of that recognition; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Wortham, a sophomore at James Clemens High School in Madison, is a remarkable young man who embodies resilience, talent, and a deep-seated empathy; maintaining a 3.7 GPA, Ben demonstrates a strong commitment to his academic success while simultaneously excelling in music, art, and photography; and

WHEREAS, Ben's artistic talents are undeniable; he is a member of the archery team, the Competition Marching Band, the Symphonic Band, and the Honor Band; he sat first chair clarinet in his middle school band and received the "Outstanding Woodwind Award" in 8th grade; he has won and placed multiple times, including a remarkable sweep in 2021, where he won first place at the school, district, and state levels in six categories, culminating in a first-place national win for his clarinet composition; this year, he again placed first at James Clemens High School in both photography and music composition for the competition; beyond his artistic pursuits, Ben actively contributes to



HR217 INTRODUCED

29 his community; he has volunteered with Toys 4 Tots, works
30 part-time in his family's bakery, and serves as an intern
31 for the youth orchestra; and

32 WHEREAS, Ben's journey is all the more inspiring
33 considering the significant adversities he has overcome;
34 born dead with an APGAR score of 0, he was resuscitated at
35 birth and diagnosed with autism and Global Cerebral Atrophy,
36 resulting in missing part of his brain, poor muscle tone,
37 and vision and hearing impairments; his first pediatrician
38 offered a grim prognosis, believing he would not survive
39 past four months; however, Ben defied all expectations;
40 through extensive therapy with Alabama Early Intervention,
41 the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, Alabama
42 Rehabilitation Services, and the Huntsville UCP Center,
43 along with dedicated home therapy from his parents, he
44 learned to talk, sit, and walk; and

45 WHEREAS, Ben's educational journey has been equally
46 remarkable; he participated in the Developmental Pre-K
47 Program and transitioned successfully to a regular
48 kindergarten class; as a special needs student with an IEP,
49 he has utilized assistive devices like "Talk to Text" and
50 receives oral tests and book readings; his teachers have
51 noted his exceptional aptitude for math, attributing it to
52 his acute listening skills developed as a result of his
53 vision and reading challenges; his middle school math
54 teacher observed that Ben often solves problems mentally
55 before others can write them down; and

56 WHEREAS, Ben's story is one of triumph over



HR217 INTRODUCED

57 adversity; he transforms his challenges into opportunities
58 to model empathy and understanding; open about his
59 conditions, he encourages his peers to ask questions about
60 autism and Global Cerebral Atrophy, fostering a more
61 inclusive and accepting environment; despite facing teasing
62 and prejudice, Ben responds with kindness and understanding;
63 he is a powerful example of perseverance, proving that
64 special needs students are capable of achieving and
65 exceeding expectations; Benjamin Wortham is a testament to
66 the power of the human spirit and a truly deserving
67 candidate for recognition as a Young Hero; now therefore,

68 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
69 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That with great pride and special
70 pleasure Benjamin Wortham is heartily commended on being
71 named one of Alabama Public Television's Young Heroes of
72 2025, and best wishes are extended in all future endeavors.