

## HR360 INTRODUCED



1     HR360  
2     U9QHZXX-1  
3     By Representatives Ellis, Bedsole, DuBose, Hulsey, Mooney,  
4     Carns, Paschal  
5     RFD:  
6     First Read: 07-May-25



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4 HR\_\_\_\_\_ COMMENDING DR. JOHN W. STEWART III FOR HIS  
5 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO  
6 DURING HIS 15 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE.  
7

8 WHEREAS, Dr. John W. Stewart III, the 15th President  
9 of the University of Montevallo, is highly honored and  
10 commended on the occasion of his retirement for exceptional  
11 leadership, innovative programs, and significant impact on  
12 the school's culture, growth, and academic achievements  
13 during his 15 years of dedicated service; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Stewart earned his Ph.D. in English from  
15 the University of Southern Mississippi, a Master of Arts in  
16 English from Washington College in Chesterfield, Maryland,  
17 and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Wake Forest  
18 University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Stewart began his distinguished tenure  
20 at the University of Montevallo (UM) when he succeeded  
21 Philip Williams as president; he was inaugurated on October  
22 14, 2010; and

23 WHEREAS, under Dr. Stewart's leadership, the  
24 university has focused on developing new academic programs  
25 and promoting increased opportunities for interdisciplinary  
26 studies; he has added numerous programs to grow enrollment,  
27 such as the Outdoor Scholars Program, which includes a bass  
28 fishing team that has won four consecutive Bass Pro Shops



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29 School of the Year titles, and the Montevallo MADE program,  
30 which assists first-year students in transitioning to  
31 college life and has resulted in a 90 percent retention  
32 rate; and

33 WHEREAS, due to Dr. Stewart's visionary strategy, the  
34 national profile of UM has been successfully raised by  
35 improving the university's marketing, advancement, and  
36 enrollment operations; he was also instrumental in securing  
37 the first \$1 million gift in the university's history and  
38 investing \$26 million into campus capital projects and  
39 deferred maintenance; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Stewart is actively engaged in both the  
41 public and private sectors and has been widely recognized  
42 for his service to the State of Alabama; among his many  
43 awards and accolades, he was recognized by the Birmingham  
44 Business Alliance as CEO of the Year Finalist, and in 2015,  
45 he received the Vulcans Community Award for Outstanding New  
46 Leadership; and

47 WHEREAS, he has offered his leadership to the boards  
48 of directors for numerous organizations, including the  
49 Dauphin Island Oceanographic Institute, the Alabama  
50 Shakespeare Festival, and the Council of Public Liberal Arts  
51 Colleges; he was also a featured speaker at the 2016  
52 Southern University Conference and has served as the Chair  
53 for the Council of State University Presidents in Alabama;  
54 and

55 WHEREAS, Dr. Stewart has earned widespread admiration  
56 and respect through the years for his tireless dedication



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57 and exceptional abilities; his record of excellence reflects  
58 immense credit not only to the University of Montevallo, but  
59 upon the entire State of Alabama, and he is truly deserving  
60 of special recognition; now therefore,

61 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
62 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Dr. John W. Stewart III is  
63 highly honored and commended for his outstanding  
64 achievements on the occasion of his retirement as President  
65 of the University of Montevallo, and we recognize his  
66 exemplary leadership, unwavering commitment to academic  
67 excellence, and profound impact on the lives of students,  
68 educators, and the community at-large.