

HJR152 INTRODUCED



1 HJR152
2 6YECI33-1
3 By Representative Stubbs
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 19-Feb-26



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HJR___ COMMENDING THOMAS A. HARRIS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO BUSINESS, CONSERVATION, AND PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, the Alabama Business Hall of Fame, founded in 1973, was established to honor, preserve, and perpetuate the names and accomplishments of business leaders whose achievements have brought lasting distinction and economic advancement to the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. Harris is a graduate of Auburn University, having earned a degree in business in 1971, and has since distinguished himself as a leader in finance, entrepreneurship, conservation, and public service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris founded Merchant Capital, an investment banking firm headquartered in Montgomery with offices throughout the southeastern United States; under his leadership, the firm was recognized as the number-one investment bank in Alabama by Thomson Reuters, a globally respected authority in financial markets; and

WHEREAS, Merchant Capital was acquired by Stifel Financial Corp. in 2014, and Mr. Harris continued to serve as Senior Managing Director until his retirement in 2022; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Mr. Harris founded the Birmingham Recovery Center and Longleaf Wellness and Recovery Centers,



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29 which provide critical treatment services for individuals
30 affected by substance use and mental health disorders; and

31 WHEREAS, in 2023 Mr. Harris partnered in launching
32 YHN Media Group, which owns and operates several
33 Alabama-based media outlets, further contributing to
34 economic development and informed civic engagement within
35 the state; and

36 WHEREAS, Mr. Harris is an avid conservationist and
37 founder of Alabama Black Belt Adventures, a nonprofit
38 organization dedicated to promoting outdoor recreation,
39 conservation, and tourism opportunities in Alabama's Black
40 Belt region; and

41 WHEREAS, Mr. Harris has served on the National Board
42 of Directors of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, has
43 been named Alabama Wildlife Governor's Conservationist of
44 the Year; and serves on the boards of the Alabama Wildlife
45 Federation, the Alabama Forest Land Trust, and Junior
46 Achievement of Alabama; he is also a founding sponsor of the
47 Wetumpka Wildlife Arts Festival; and

48 WHEREAS, in recognition of his exemplary leadership
49 in business and public service, Thomas A. Harris was
50 inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 2024; now
51 therefore,

52 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
53 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Thomas A.
54 Harris for his outstanding accomplishments and his enduring
55 contributions to business excellence, conservation,



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56 philanthropy, and community development throughout the State
57 of Alabama.