

HR214 INTRODUCED



1 HR214
2 BYX2U4Q-1
3 By Representative England
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 10-Mar-26



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HR_____ COMMENDING BILL BAXLEY ON HIS SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, it is with great admiration and deep respect that we recognize Bill Baxley for his many contributions to Alabama's historical, legal, and political landscape; and

WHEREAS, a former Lieutenant Governor and two-term Attorney General, Bill Baxley grew up in Dothan and graduated from The University of Alabama School of Law at 22 years of age; in 1970, after serving as the District Attorney for Houston County, Bill became the youngest state attorney general ever elected at only 28 years of age upon his first term as Attorney General of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, as AG, Bill quickly began assembling a team of Alabama's brightest young legal minds, many of whom would go on to make their own mark in public service; Bill hired Alabama native and Yale Law School graduate Myron Thompson as the first Black assistant attorney general in the State of Alabama; Judge Thompson has now served on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama for 45 years; and

WHEREAS, other notable Baxley office alumni include Eleventh Circuit Judge Ed Carnes, former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Parker, and former Alabama Supreme Court Justice Jean Brown; and



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29 WHEREAS, shortly after taking office, Bill reopened
30 the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing case, which had been
31 closed since 1963 with no charges filed; the AG's office
32 investigation took several years, and in 1977 Bill
33 successfully prosecuted Robert Chambliss, the ringleader of
34 the bombing; Chambliss was subsequently sentenced to life in
35 prison and, despite death threats from active members of the
36 Ku Klux Klan, Bill's perseverance brought long-deserved
37 justice to the families of Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia
38 Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Denise McNair; and

39 WHEREAS, Bill continued his service to Alabama as the
40 24th Lieutenant Governor of Alabama from 1983 to 1987; he
41 served in the Alabama Army National Reserve from 1962 to
42 2001 and retired as a colonel in the Judge Advocate General
43 Corps; in 2013, Bill was awarded the Order of the Samaritan
44 by The University of Alabama School of Law, the highest
45 public service honor bestowed by the law school; in 2017,
46 Bill was the guest of honor at the Alabama Civil Justice
47 Foundation's annual gala; and

48 WHEREAS, today Bill is still in private practice in
49 Birmingham; he has successfully represented clients in the
50 United States Supreme Court, the Alabama Supreme Court, and
51 in appellate and trial courts in many states; throughout his
52 many years of practice, Bill continued to represent
53 individuals of modest means and advocate for those without a
54 voice; those efforts have earned him the distinction of
55 being selected as a Fellow in the International Academy of
56 Trial Lawyers as well as being recognized with countless



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57 awards and honors from multiple organizations; and

58 WHEREAS, Bill Baxley has inspired, and is considered
59 a hero to, generations of lawyers and civil rights
60 advocates; while his incredible career has earned him many
61 impressive titles and honors, perhaps his favorite of all is
62 "Grand B," the name bestowed to him by his precious
63 grandchildren; now therefore,

64 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
65 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Bill Baxley is highly commended
66 for his many professional achievements, leaving an indelible
67 mark on the pages of Alabama history, and this resolution is
68 offered to him as evidence of our high regard and with best
69 wishes and many more blessings to come.