

## HR222 INTRODUCED



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3 By Representatives Daniels, Hall, Lands  
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HR\_\_\_\_\_ HONORING MR. WILLIE SMITH AT THE ROSETTA JAMES  
FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNUAL "HONORING OUR ELDERS DAY" GALA.

WHEREAS, with great joy and special pleasure, we honor Mr. Willie Smith as the special guest at the Rosetta James Foundation's 20th Annual "Honoring Our Elders Day" Gala at the Jackson Center in Huntsville, Alabama, on Saturday, March 14, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a native of Madison County and a New Market resident, Mr. Smith was raised on the family farm, where he learned the value of hard work exemplified by the legacy of his grandfather, Carter Smith, a record-setting Madison County cotton farmer whose strong work ethic has endured through the generations; Mr. Smith utilized the values of diligence, reliability, industriousness, and dedication that he learned on the farm in his professional career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's career includes work at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama A&M University, University Volkswagen of Huntsville, and 28 years with Goodyear Dunlop Tires; a true renaissance man, he is also a gifted actor, writer, and director; he authored and staged *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord* and performed in *Crowns* at the Von Braun Civic Center; known as "The Old School Cowboy," Mr. Smith celebrates his heritage as a descendant of a Buffalo Soldier of the 10th Cavalry; he and his wife, Patrice M. Smith,



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29 perform a reenactment and storytelling of the Buffalo  
30 Soldiers during Juneteenth celebrations at MidCity; his life  
31 is a reflection of faith, labor, creativity, and enduring  
32 legacy through generational resilience as the patriarch of a  
33 growing family; and

34 WHEREAS, the mission of the Rosetta James Foundation  
35 is to honor the wisdom, service, and dedication of our  
36 cherished senior citizens; the "Honoring Our Elders Day"  
37 Gala is a heartfelt tribute to community and civic  
38 volunteers 70 years of age and above who have dedicated  
39 their lives to uplifting others and fostering positive  
40 change; these remarkable individuals exemplify the very  
41 spirit of compassion, leadership, and service that inspires  
42 us all; and

43 WHEREAS, this annual celebration not only shines a  
44 spotlight on these distinguished elders but also serves as a  
45 platform to invest in the next generation of agents for  
46 change; through the generous support of its attendees and  
47 donors, the Gala raises vital funds to provide scholarships  
48 for deserving students who embody the principles of  
49 volunteerism, academic excellence, and civic engagement;  
50 these outstanding students will also be recognized during  
51 the event, connecting their bright futures to the enduring  
52 legacies of those who came before them; and

53 WHEREAS, this year's Gala will be held at noon on  
54 Saturday, March 14, at the Jackson Center; the extraordinary  
55 contributions of our elders will be honored while future  
56 leaders will be empowered to continue building a legacy of



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57 service and excellence; now therefore,

58 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
59 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Mr. Willie Smith will be highly  
60 honored on an unforgettable afternoon filled with  
61 inspiration, celebration, and community, and we endeavor to  
62 continue uplifting and investing in those who make a  
63 difference, both today and tomorrow.