

## SJR28 INTRODUCED



1 SJR28  
2 XD51NEZ-1  
3 By Senators , Melson, Orr  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 29-Jan-26



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4 SJR\_\_\_ COMMENDING SANDRA THOMPSON FOR HER OUTSTANDING  
5 LEADERSHIP AS DIRECTOR OF THE ALABAMA VETERANS MUSEUM AND  
6 ARCHIVES.

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8 WHEREAS, it is with profound appreciation and deepest  
9 admiration that we recognize Sandra "Sandy" Thompson for 17  
10 years of steadfast service and exemplary leadership as  
11 Director of the Alabama Veterans Museum and Archives; and

12 WHEREAS, open in Athens since 2000, the Alabama  
13 Veterans Museum and Archives (AVMA) is dedicated to the  
14 memory of veterans from Alabama who served in all branches  
15 of the United States Armed Forces; and

16 WHEREAS, due to Sandy's calm, innovative, and highly  
17 efficient guidance, the past 17 years have been filled with  
18 numerous accomplishments at the museum; her positive,  
19 persuasive nature has been a tremendous tool in sustaining  
20 the AVMA, which is now home to 2,000 artifacts belonging to  
21 local veterans both past and present; the collection  
22 includes uniforms, medals, weapons, photographs, and books  
23 from all major American wars; and

24 WHEREAS, Sandy's job performance has exceeded  
25 expectations; the AVMA mainly relies upon donations and  
26 daily volunteers, and she is the only paid staff member;  
27 under her leadership, the museum continues to succeed and  
28 grow, due largely to Sandy's encouragement of others in



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order to accomplish a mission; and

WHEREAS, moving the museum from the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Depot to its current location in the larger Limestone County Events Center was indeed a great challenge; however, Sandy, who is a retired Air Force Master Sergeant with 20 years of service, met the challenge head-on while organizing, planning, and executing the move in a seamless fashion; her leadership style is commendable; and

WHEREAS, her ability to interact with elected officials at the city, county, and state levels is another positive attribute; she is well respected within the business and political communities, and she has been very connected in getting the community involved with the museum as a whole; and

WHEREAS, under Sandy's direction, the museum has sought to institute a variety of programs and activities to bring in more members for the Alabama Veterans Museum Foundation, raise funds, and increase the number of tourists visiting the museum; some of these new activities include blood drives, an annual fish fry, political rallies, military shows, and participation in a yearly Veterans Day Parade; these efforts also include a variety of successful memorial programs; and

WHEREAS, Sandy has also helped initiate two of the most popular fundraisers for the museum, such as the "Threads of Honor" program allowing patrons to donate money to have veterans' names and other military information hand-stitched by local quilters into a quilt that hangs in



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57     perpetuity in the museum in their honor, and the monthly  
58     "Coffee Call" offering visitors and locals the opportunity  
59     to meet and talk with veterans while enjoying a free  
60     breakfast; each event is sponsored by a local business or  
61     group of veterans or civilians in honor of the men and women  
62     who gave their lives in the service of the United States  
63     Armed Forces; and

64             WHEREAS, Sandy Thompson has indeed left big  
65     footprints to fill upon her retirement as Director of the  
66     Alabama Veterans Museum and Archives; museum officials  
67     estimate that more than 12,000 individuals visit the AVMA  
68     each year; shortly after Sandy became Director, the Alabama  
69     Mountain Lakes Association honored the AVMA with the 2009  
70     PEAK Award as Attraction of the Year for contributing to  
71     tourism in North Alabama; now therefore;

72             BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
73     HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby most highly  
74     commend Sandra "Sandy" Thompson for her faithful devotion to  
75     her community and to honoring Alabama's veterans, and we  
76     extend to her our heartfelt gratitude and sincere best  
77     wishes for continued health, happiness, and fulfillment in  
78     her future endeavors.