- 1 HJR7
- 2 215077-1
- 3 By Representative Kiel
- 4 RFD: Rules
- 5 First Read: 27-SEP-21

1	215077-1:n:09/20/2021:BH/bh LSA2021-2011
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8	HONORING MR. CECIL BATCHELOR FOR HIS SERVICE AND
9	PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.
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11	WHEREAS, it is a privilege to highly honor Mr. Cecil
12	Batchelor, a dedicated and remarkable businessman of
13	Russellville, Alabama, for diligently serving and bettering
14	the communities and organizations of which he has been a part;
15	and
16	WHEREAS, Mr. Batchelor was born on June 3, 1925, as
17	the youngest of seven children to L.M. and Mary Batchelor; Mr.
18	Batchelor developed a desire to serve others at a very young
19	age; and
20	WHEREAS, upon graduating from Phillips High School
21	in Bear Creek, Alabama, Mr. Batchelor decided to join the
22	United States Navy but had to wait three months before he
23	could officially join; during his waiting period, he
24	transported fruit from orchards in Florida to their processing
25	plants, which allowed him to make a small profit; he also
26	worked at T.H. Little Mercantile Company in Haleyville,

Alabama, where he met the love of his life, Olivia Robinson;
and

WHEREAS, after 12 weeks of basic training in the United States Navy, Mr. Batchelor was stationed stateside during World War II, with his ship's company patrolling out of Williamsburg, Virginia; as he patrolled for submarines and protected the area from potential attacks, he took great pride in serving his country and always looked for additional ways to help others; he found an opportunity to change the entire future for German Prisoner of War, Georg Giersberg, whom he had befriended during his service; and

WHEREAS, after the war was over, Mr. Batchelor retuned home, and he and Olivia were married; thereafter, Mr. Batchelor enrolled at Florence State Teachers College, now known as The University of North Alabama, in Florence, Alabama, with the desire to become an educator; during his time in college, he received an offer from a close friend and businessman to go into the automobile industry; Mr. Batchelor soon joined Jimmy Gentle, the owner of Dependable Motor Company, a local car dealership in Russellville; Mr. Batchelor was first a sales manager and then eventually became co-owner of the company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Batchelor settled into their lives in Russellville, and two children were born to their union, Greg and Rebecca; furthermore, Mr. and Mrs. Batchelor were active in their church, First United Methodist Church of Russellville, where they served as Youth Directors and where

Mr. Batchelor also served as a Sunday School Teacher and as a founding member of the longstanding Earnest Workers Sunday School Class; some of his other acts of service performed over the decades include representing Franklin County on the Alabama Tuberculosis Association Board; being an organizing member of the Diabetes Trust Fund in Birmingham, Alabama; and serving as Chairman of the Russellville City School Board, where he made decisions that positively affected students and teachers in Russellville; and

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WHEREAS, some of Mr. Batchelor's other accomplishments include being elected to the Board of Directors for Citizens Bank in 1964, where he eventually began serving as the Chairman of the Board, staying in this position for over 50 years; greatly improving Citizens Bank in various ways; gathering a group of Haleyville citizens together to create Haleyville's Savings and Loan Bank, which later merged with Savings and Loan Bank of Alabama; changing the name of Citizens Bank to CB and S Bank; and helping the bank grow from one branch in Russellville to an impressive 57 branches across Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee; Mr. Batchelor retired as Chairman of the CB and S Bank Board of Directors in May 2016; he has remained on the CB and S Board of Directors as Director and Chairman Emeritus; currently, he serves as Chairman of CB and S Bank-Corp, the official holding company for CB and S Bank; and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee, where he also serves as a member of the Finance and Building Committees; and

WHEREAS, civically, Mr. Batchelor is currently 2 thought to be the longest serving Civitan member in the State 3 of Alabama, at 72 years of service, which included time spent as the President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Russellville 4 5 Civitan Club; furthermore, he organized and was the first 6 President of the Russellville Industrial Board, the 7 Russellville Jaycees, and the Russellville Merchant 8 Association; his accolades over the years include being named 9 Russellville's Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Citizen of the 10 Year for Franklin County, and Citizen of the Year for Russellville; and being inducted into the Franklin County 11 Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame; and 12 13 WHEREAS, Mr. Batchelor is the epitome of unwavering 14 selflessness, dedication, and expertise; an incredible man and 15 inspiration, he is deeply loved and appreciated by many and is 16 very deserving of special recognition; now therefore, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH 17 18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Mr. Cecil Batchelor is highly honored for his numerous acts of serving others and his 19 20 impressive achievements, and this resolution hereby serves as 21 a tribute to him with heartiest gratitude, admiration, and

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regard.