

1 HR113
2 218240-1
3 By Representative Sanderford
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 02-MAR-22

COMMENDING MR. BILLY ORTON FOR PROFESSIONAL
ACHIEVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, it is a pleasure to extend highest
commendations to Mr. Billy Orton for his many professional
achievements and unwavering dedication; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky native Mr. Orton has been serving
as the Minister of Music and Worship at First Baptist Church
in Huntsville, Alabama, since August 1998, administering a
growing program of music ministries that encompasses choirs,
instrumental groups, bands, ensembles, master classes, and an
artists series; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Orton is a man of a plethora of
impressive accomplishments, including, but not limited to,
graduating with highest honors from Western Kentucky
University, where he was the recipient of the Ogden Award,
which is given to the student with the top academic record,
and from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he
was Vice President of his graduating class; being recognized
as a leader in all levels in music ministry, which are

1 associational, statewide, and nationally; organizing and
2 leading numerous music mission tours across the nation, as
3 well as to parts of the world as diverse as Russia, Germany,
4 Zimbabwe, and Canada; having his choir and orchestra be the
5 first evangelical church music group to perform at the famed
6 Tchaikovsky Hall of the Moscow Conservatory of Music in
7 Russia; helping launch the Columbia Institute of Fine Arts, a
8 school that has continued to grow and which recently
9 celebrated its 25th Anniversary; having his musical groups
10 perform at the White House and the National Cathedral; being
11 elected President of the Kentucky Baptist Music Association;
12 being invited to teach at major church music conferences, such
13 as Ridgecrest Music Week; being elected National Vice
14 President for the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference,
15 where he also served on the organization's council for several
16 years; being the Artistic Director Emeritus for the Huntsville
17 Community Chorus Association, an arts organization that he led
18 from 2002 to 2018; serving as the Chorus Master for the
19 Huntsville Symphony Orchestra; serving as a bass trombonist
20 for various groups, including Redstone Brass, the Rocket City
21 Jazz Orchestra, and Huntsville's In the Mood Swing Band;
22 writing for The Church Musician magazine and The Music Leader,
23 both denominational publications; and writing several articles
24 which were included in a new book written and compiled by Tim
25 Sharp, "Sacred Choral Music Repertoire: Insights for
26 Conductors"; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Orton and his wife, Jane Orton, have
2 been married since August 12, 1978, after growing up together
3 in their hometown of Greenville, Kentucky; Mrs. Orton has been
4 a respected leader in the field of mental health in each city
5 and state where the Ortons have lived and served; Mr. Orton
6 considers himself the luckiest man in the world to be married
7 to the love of his life, his childhood sweetheart, and a true
8 angel; Mr. and Mrs. Orton have two adult children, three
9 grandsons, and one granddaughter; Mr. Orton loves introducing
10 and playing sports with his grandchildren, as he is an avid
11 player and fan of sports, his favorite being basketball; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Orton's life in music ministry can be
13 attributed to following the call of God upon his life to
14 develop talents and skills given by the Lord to be used in the
15 service of others through the ministries of the church; a
16 remarkable and talented man with a steadfast commitment to
17 serving others, Mr. Orton continues to be a blessing in the
18 lives of many; now therefore,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
20 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Mr. Billy Orton is heartily
21 commended for his many professional achievements and
22 unwavering dedication, and this resolution hereby serves as a
23 tribute to him with warmest gratitude and admiration, along
24 with sincere best wishes for continued happiness and success
25 during his retirement.