- 1 HR510
- 2 187198-1
- 3 By Representative Hall
- 4 RFD:
- 5 First Read: 18-MAY-17

1	187198-1:n:05/18/2017:AR/ar LRS2017-2201
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8	CELEBRATING AND HONORING ELIZABETH SLOAN RAGLAND.
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10	WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society (TVJS)
11	will present its 32nd annual Jazz-N-June Festival June 15-17,
12	2017; and
13	WHEREAS, the festival showcases a variety of musical
14	and artistic events along with activities recognizing and
15	appreciating how African American Gospel music, the Blues, and
16	Classic Jazz helped shape the arts and culture in America; and
17	WHEREAS, Elizabeth Sloan Ragland, a major supporter
18	of the arts in Madison County and who loved American music
19	which influenced the world, lost her battle with cancer on
20	March 10, 2017; and
21	WHEREAS, because of Mrs. Ragland's support and
22	partnership with TVJS, the Tennessee Valley has experienced
23	some of the greatest artist and educators in the world
24	including NEA Jazz Master Marian McPartland, Richie Cole,
25	Freddy Cole, and Roy Ayers, just to name a few; and
26	WHEREAS, since 1998, through the Tennessee Valley
27	Jazz Society and with Mrs. Ragland's support, over 32,500

1 local students, faculty, and staff experienced the Jazz
2 Education is Cool Program; and

WHEREAS, as General manager of the 100,000 WJAB FM radio station, she launched the careers of numerous artists by encouraging producers to play releases by Eric Essix, Jazmin Gent, Kelly O'Neal, Devere Pride, P.D. Blair and others; and

WHEREAS, in recognition for and in celebration of Mrs. Ragland's committed contribution to the Madison County Tennessee Valley Jazz Society events and activities, the 2017 annual Jazz-N-June Festival will be dedicated to her service and in her memory; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Oakwood University will host the inaugural Elizabeth Sloan Ragland Multicultural Unity Celebration on Thursday, June 22, 2017, which is designed to bring a dynamic sense of unity to the community through word and song; and

WHEREAS, featured events will include a symposium and panel discussion on the evolution of African American Gospel music; a Gospel Music Concert featuring songs from area churches and the unity song by the Elizabeth Sloan Ragland Multicultural Unity Choir, composed of choirs from a variety of churches in the Huntsville community; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Mrs. Elizabeth Sloan Ragland is posthumously honored and commended, and this resolution is offered in deepest admiration and appreciation along with best

- 1 wishes to her loving family, many friends, and the entire
- 2 community where she was highly regarded.