

1 SJR25
2 216848-2
3 By Senators Allen, Scofield, Beasley, Albritton, Barfoot,
4 Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott,
5 Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Holley, Jones, Livingston,
6 Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed, Roberts,
7 Sanders-Fortier, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 02-FEB-22

1 SJR25

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4 ENROLLED, SJR25,

5 COMMENDING MR. BILL GILLEY FOR HIS RECOGNITION
6 DURING THE 2021 ALABAMA AGRICULTURE HALL OF HONOR BANQUET ON
7 SEPTEMBER 16, 2021.

8
9 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, we
10 highly commend Mr. Bill Gilley for his recognition during the
11 2021 Alabama Agriculture Hall of Honor Banquet on September
12 16, 2021; and

13 WHEREAS, born and reared on a small farm in Chatom,
14 Alabama, Mr. Gilley is known for using his intelligence,
15 determination, and the lessons he learned at Auburn University
16 to prevent the collapse of the poultry industry in the 1960s;
17 during his time at Auburn University, where he earned a
18 Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Education and a
19 Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Education, he was
20 tutored by poultry science legends, Dr. Dale King and Dr.
21 Allen Edgar, with whom he worked to develop new disease
22 control methods; Mr. Gilley also worked with Dr. Dwight Bond,
23 with whom he developed a complicated procedure that injected
24 turkey blood into day-old baby chicks to keep the baby chicks
25 from developing Marek's Disease, a disease that causes birds

1 to develop tumors that make them unfit for human consumption;
 2 the procedure was 100 percent effective in protecting Mr.
 3 Gilley's flocks from the disease, and thus he shared the
 4 guidelines with the rest of the industry, and his program
 5 became common practice; two years later, a commercially
 6 available vaccine was developed using the same turkey blood; a
 7 form of this vaccine is still used today; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1965, Mr. Gilley began working for Red
 9 Hat Poultry, which later became ConAgra Foods; he worked in
 10 Auburn, Alabama, for a year, where he developed an
 11 environmentally controlled house to grow broilers and
 12 replacement pullets, and many of these management procedures
 13 are still used today; in 1966, he moved to ConAgra Foods'
 14 Decatur, Alabama, location, where he eventually managed the
 15 facility's commercial layer operation; finally, he became the
 16 Bird Health Director for all ConAgra Foods operations in
 17 Alabama and Georgia, and it was in this role that he made some
 18 of his most important contributions to the poultry industry,
 19 including, addressing not only Marek's Disease, but also
 20 equally devastating diseases, such as Pullorum and Mycoplasma;
 21 in 1972, Mr. Gilley moved to Ruston, Louisiana, and started a
 22 successful, new grow-out operation for ConAgra Foods; 10 years
 23 later, the company moved him to Enterprise, Alabama, where he
 24 continued to make contributions to the industry until his
 25 retirement in 1995; during his retirement, he worked with the

1 Coffee County Extension Service and the Auburn Poultry Science
2 Department to develop dead-bird disposal by using a composting
3 method, a system that is still used today; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Gilley is a graduate of Washington
5 County High School, where he was Salutatorian and Student Body
6 President and where he met his wife of 59 years and counting,
7 Polly; during the 2021 Alabama Agriculture Hall of Honor
8 Banquet at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference
9 Center at Grand National on September 16, 2021, Auburn
10 University's College of Agriculture and Agricultural Alumni
11 Association recognized Mr. Gilley for his contributions to
12 Alabama agriculture through the years and inducted him into
13 the Hall of Honor in the agribusiness sector; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Gilley is indeed an incredible leader
15 whose knowledge, diligence, and selflessness continue to
16 inspire the lives of many; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Mr. Bill Gilley is highly
19 commended for his recognition during the 2021 Alabama
20 Agriculture Hall of Honor Banquet on September 16, 2021, and
21 this resolution hereby serves as a tribute to him with warmest
22 gratitude and admiration, along with sincere best wishes for
23 continued happiness and success in all future endeavors.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR25

Senate 02-FEB-22

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 10-FEB-22

By: Senator Allen