

1 HJR72
2 216858-2
3 By Representatives Clouse, McCutcheon, Lee, Blackshear,
4 Garrett, Reynolds, Whitt, Crawford, Greer, Mooney, Allen,
5 Ledbetter, Jones (M), Simpson, Stringer, Sorrells, Stadthagen,
6 Marques, Isbell, Brown (C), Dismukes, Bracy, Jones (S),
7 Pettus, Meadows, Drummond, Sells, Ingram, Baker, Ellis,
8 Treadaway, South, Bedsole, Kitchens, Standridge, Holmes,
9 Wingo, Fincher, Rich, Almond, Kiel, Shaver, Paschal, Lipscomb,
10 Oliver, Smith, Easterbrook, Drake, Lovvorn, Carns, Hill,
11 Clarke, Chestnut, Hurst, Robertson, Harbison, Faust, Collins
12 and Farley
13 RFD: Rules
14 First Read: 16-FEB-22

HONORING AND COMMENDING ALABAMA SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
VICTOR GASTON FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, we note with utmost admiration and
appreciation the distinguished service and tenure of
Representative Victor Gaston to the Alabama House of
Representatives, serving as Alabama Speaker Pro Tempore of the
House for the past 12 years, and to the constituents of House
District 100 in Mobile County serving for the past 40 years;
and

WHEREAS, born into the Union Church community of
Mobile County and reared on a family farm, Representative
Gaston earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of
Southern Mississippi, a Master's Degree from the University of
South Alabama, and a Doctorate in Education from Auburn
University; he diligently served Mobile County as an educator
and a School Administrator prior to being elected to the House
of Representatives; he also served as a member of the Marine
Corps Reserves, where he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant

1 during a decade long career; he served an additional ten years
2 in the Alabama National Guard; he was called to active duty in
3 response to Hurricane Frederic in 1979 and was also deployed
4 for a time in South Korea; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Gaston brought his work
6 ethic to the State House during his first term in 1982,
7 defeating an entrenched Democrat with 53 percent of the vote;
8 he won his next two campaigns with almost 80 percent of the
9 vote, respectively; he has run without an opponent in every
10 subsequent campaign since 1986 and holds the longest unopposed
11 election streak of any State Legislator who has served in the
12 16-State Southern Legislative Conference; upon initially
13 taking office, Representative Gaston was one of only 11
14 Republicans who served in the 140 member Alabama Legislature;
15 in 1987, Speaker of the House Jimmy Clark appointed him as the
16 only Republican committee chairman and tapped him to lead the
17 House State Government Committee, one of the four major
18 legislative panels at that time; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Gaston labored tirelessly to
20 help enact legislation including several reform measures that
21 improved and strengthened Alabama's higher education system; a
22 bill that significantly reduced traffic fatalities and
23 injuries on Alabama's highways by doubling speeding fines in
24 road construction zones; and boosting Alabama's economy with
25 his sponsored Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit and igniting
26 a wave of urban and rural renewal across the state;
27 Representative Gaston began his tenure as Speaker Pro Tempore

1 of the House of Representatives in 2010; as Speaker Pro
2 Tempore, he has helmed the House of Representatives through
3 changes in federal and state government, natural disasters,
4 and a pandemic; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Gaston was honored to be an
6 elected delegate to six consecutive Republican National
7 Conventions; he served on the convention's Rules Committee in
8 1988 and Credentials Committee in 2000; he also served two
9 terms on the National Republican Legislators Board;
10 Representative Gaston is a former member of the White House
11 Commission on Presidential Scholars; he was appointed to this
12 commission by President Ronald Reagan and President George
13 H.W. Bush; and

14 WHEREAS, in addition to his legislative commitments,
15 he serves as a member of the Board of Volunteers of America,
16 Penelope House, Home of Grace for Women, 4-H Club Foundation,
17 AltaPointe (Mobile Mental Health Center), SO-MI Club, Advisory
18 Council for the Assistance League of Mobile, and the Mobile
19 Association for Retarded Children; Representative Gaston is
20 former member of the board of the Mobile Area Chamber of
21 Commerce; and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Gaston and his late wife of
23 46 years wife, Jean, have imparted lessons to the next
24 generation by rearing two sons, Hank Gaston (Laura) and George
25 Gaston (Tawnya); they have been blessed with six grandsons;
26 Jason, James, Cameron, Matthew, Noah, and Charlie;
27 Representative Gaston is an ordained deacon and a member of

1 the sanctuary choir at Spring Hill Baptist Church; now
2 therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body hereby honors and
5 commends Speaker Pro Tempore of the Alabama House of
6 Representatives Victor Gaston for his many decades of
7 dedicated service to this body and to the entire State of
8 Alabama.