

## HR156 INTRODUCED



1 HR156

2 ZMILRRK-1

3 By Representatives Stadthagen, Moore (M), Moore (P), Wood (D),

4 Wood (R), Almond, Baker, Bedsole, Blackshear, Bolton, Boyd,

5 Bracy, Brinyark, Brown, Butler, Carns, Chestnut, Clarke,

6 Clouse, Collins, Colvin, Crawford, Daniels, Drummond, DuBose,

7 Easterbrook, Ellis, England, Ensler, Estes, Faulkner, Fidler,

8 Fincher, Forte, Garrett, Gidley, Givan, Givens, Gray, Hall,

9 Hammett, Harbison, Harrison, Hassell, Hendrix, Hill,

10 Holk-Jones, Hollis, Hulsey, Hurst, Ingram, Jackson, Jones,

11 Kiel, Kirkland, Lamb, Lands, Lawrence, Ledbetter, Lee,

12 Lipscomb, Lomax, Lovvorn, Marques, McCampbell, McClammy,

13 Mooney, Morris, Oliver, Paramore, Paschal, Pettus, Pringle,

14 Rafferty, Rehm, Reynolds, Rigsby, Robbins, Robertson, Sellers,

15 Sells, Shaver, Shaw, Shedd, Shirey, Simpson, Smith, Sorrells,

16 Standridge, Starnes, Stringer, Stubbs, Tillman, Travis,

17 Treadaway, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Whitt, Whorton,

18 Wilcox, Woods, Yarbrough

19 RFD:

20 First Read: 04-Apr-24



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HR\_\_\_\_\_ CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING BIG OAK RANCH FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN AND STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, Big Oak Ranch was founded in 1974 by John Croyle to meet the needs of abused, neglected, and abandoned children by giving them a solid, Christian home and a chance to realize and fulfill God's plan for their lives; and

WHEREAS, in the past 50 years, Big Oak Ranch has been called to meet the needs of more than 2,000 children; they have grown from a single farmhouse that served five boys into seven ministry teams dedicated to continually improving the standard of care for children who need a chance, and they have advanced the mission of loving, long-term, Christian homes nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the children who call Big Oak Ranch home come from various backgrounds and unique circumstances; while the children are all different, they all have heartbreak and difficulty in common; most have never known the stability of a true home and most were never given unconditional love; the lives of these children were too often filled with fear, pain, and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, four promises are made to every child who comes to Big Oak Ranch: We love you; We will never lie to you; We will stick with you until you are grown; There are boundaries; in those four promises, each child finds love



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29 and emotional support; they find truth and honesty; they  
30 find security; and they find discipline; and overwhelmingly,  
31 they find hope and the chance to discover God's true purpose  
32 for their lives; and

33 WHEREAS, when children arrive at the Ranch, they are  
34 assigned to full-time houseparents and move into a home with  
35 their own bedroom; they receive food, clothing, health care,  
36 dental care, and attend a private Christian school in  
37 Rainbow City; and

38 WHEREAS, fifty years after John Croyle founded Big  
39 Oak Ranch, it is run by Brodie Croyle, John Croyle's son,  
40 and his wife, Kelli; it operates completely debt-free  
41 without taking funds from any government entity; and

42 WHEREAS, the Ranch operates a cattle program, Big Oak  
43 Cattle, that stocks the Ranch with over 15,000 pounds of red  
44 meat every year and runs ASCEND, a program to prepare young  
45 adults who grew up at Big Oak Ranch for the real world; and

46 WHEREAS, Big Oak Ranch now has 13 homes for boys and  
47 11 homes for girls and last year served children in 10  
48 different states; among the children served over the past  
49 five years, over 100 have professed their faith in Christ;  
50 furthermore, in the 2021-2022 school year, 99 children  
51 finished on the A/B honor roll, and 13 young adults received  
52 college or trade education; and

53 WHEREAS, every day for 50 years, Big Oak Ranch has  
54 worked diligently to meet the needs of many voiceless  
55 children as it continues to grow and expand its services in  
56 a community committed to God's design; now therefore



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57           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
58   LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Big Oak Ranch is recognized and  
59   commended for 50 years of dedicated and continued service to  
60   the State of Alabama and specifically to children in need of  
61   love, security, safety, and hope; this resolution is offered  
62   in highest tribute, along with sincere best wishes for  
63   continued blessings and success in all future endeavors.