

1 SJR40  
2 167747-1  
3 By Senators Chambliss and Ward  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 21-APR-15

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8 COMMENDING RUBY SMITH NEELY FOR HER SERVICE TO  
9 CENTRAL ALABAMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

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11 WHEREAS, January 29, 1939, Ruby Smith was born to  
12 James C. Smith and Tiny Lee Smith; Ruby's birth was 11 months  
13 before Central Alabama Electric Cooperative (CAEC) energized  
14 its first substation and 478 miles of line, as it began  
15 service to 810 member-consumers with an initial loan of  
16 \$378,000 which was secured from the Rural Electrification  
17 Administration; Co-op power lighted the way to a brighter  
18 future; and

19 WHEREAS, Ruby and her family were among one of the  
20 first families to receive life-changing cooperative electric  
21 power in the Chilton County Community of Union Grove from  
22 CAEC; no one realized in the late 1930's the tremendous  
23 positive impact this infant who was born without electric  
24 power would eventually have on the Rural Electric Industry;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, August 1, 1956, Ruby married Eugene Neeley,  
27 a union which lasted 57 years, and produced a loving family

1 which consists of one daughter, Gwen; her husband, Gary; two  
2 grandchildren, Heath and Heather; five great grandchildren,  
3 Gracie, Jacob, Will, Tyler, and Bailee; and

4 WHEREAS, Ruby and Eugene owned and operated Neeley's  
5 Store for almost a decade in the Mineral Springs Community of  
6 Chilton County, a small commercial account served by CAEC; and

7 WHEREAS, Ruby Neeley replaced Mr. A.D. Headley on  
8 the CAEC Board of Trustees in August 1979, and on October 28,  
9 2014, after 35 years representing District 9, Ruby retired;  
10 she faithfully and competently served the CAEC members in  
11 various capacities; she has the second longest tenure of  
12 service as a Trustee and served as Secretary/Treasurer for the  
13 Board; additionally, she was the second woman to serve and the  
14 longest-serving female on the CAEC Board; and

15 WHEREAS, Ruby Neeley, who saw the services grow from  
16 18,000 meters to the present 42,000, has successfully applied  
17 her considerable energy, experience, and knowledge of the  
18 power industry proficiently serving the many members of CAEC  
19 and providing the members of CAEC with reliable and affordable  
20 electric service; supporting the Touchtone Energy brand as  
21 well as endorsing the International Electrification Program to  
22 provide people in developing countries with access to safe,  
23 reliable, and affordable electricity; and

24 WHEREAS, Ruby Neeley, has earned the friendship and  
25 respect of the Trustees, Employees, and Members of CAEC; she  
26 also served on PowerSouth's Board of Directors, representing  
27 CAEC for 22 years, during which time she served on five

1 committees: Nominating, Member Relations and External Affairs,  
2 Marketing and Industrial Development, Engineering and  
3 Operations and Finance and Audit; furthermore, she served as  
4 PowerSouth's delegate to the Alabama Rural Electric  
5 Association; and

6 WHEREAS, we should never forget pioneers like Ms.  
7 Ruby, who, in the electric movement, believed rural dwellers  
8 deserved the same conveniences as those who lived in the  
9 cities and fought to bring affordable and reliable electricity  
10 to rural areas of the great State of Alabama; and

11 WHEREAS, Ruby Neeley's steady attachment to co-op  
12 principles, her experience and unselfish willingness to serve  
13 will be sorely missed by the members and employees of CAEC,  
14 PowerSouth, Alabama Rural Electric Association, and the  
15 National Rural Electric Association; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we join Members, Employees,  
18 Officers, and Trustees of Central Alabama Electric  
19 Cooperative, Inc., and do hereby express our great  
20 appreciation to Ruby Neeley for the immeasurable service she  
21 rendered and a copy of this resolution shall be provided to  
22 her as a token of our appreciation.