



Commendation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, William Henry Greason was born September 3, 1924 in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Greason was drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps for service in World War II. He received his training at Montford Point and served with the 34th Marine Depot Company in the Pacific theater, earning a Congressional Gold Medal in 2012; and

WHEREAS, after Mr. Greason's discharge, he began playing professional baseball in the Negro Leagues for the Nashville Black Vols. He was picked up by the Birmingham Black Barons in 1948 and helped the team win the Negro American League pennant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Greason remained with the Black Barons until he was called back to active duty during the Korean War. While stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, he played for the camp's baseball team and received attention from professional baseball scouts; and

WHEREAS, after his discharge, Mr. Greason signed as the first Black player for the Double-A Oklahoma City Indians, continued to impress with the Houston Buffs and played for the Cardinals and the Cardinals' minor leagues; and

WHEREAS, over a decade later, Mr. Greason returned to Birmingham, Alabama, where he was a member of 16th Street Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, after the church was bombed, Mr. Greason dedicated his life to serving God. He enrolled at Samford University and completed his degree in divinity at Birmingham Baptist College; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Mr. Greason was offered the pulpit at Bethel Baptist Church Berney Points, where he has remained to this day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby commend

William Henry Greason

on his service to the state of Alabama, our nation and his community. I wish him many years of continued success.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 15th day of November 2023.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor