

I want to thank Alfreda Bales for her six decades of service to her state! Your state and her people thank you for your service. I strongly believe that good public servants deserve to be recognized as they are the backbone of this government. I wanted to take a moment to explain that I have taken a firm position this session that it is an illegitimate one as the people have been barred from their legislative process. As such I have voted no on every piece of legislation that has come to the floor.

I had asked to be excused to avoid having any "No's" tarnishing the recognition of this public servant, however the Majority Party would not grant it. I was fully prepared to be absent and have it go against my record to once again avoid tarnishing the recognition of Alfreda Bales. Instead, the Democrat Majority used Parliamentary procedures to force my presence on the floor. It is a shame that they have chosen to politicize what should have been a celebratory event. Standing on my principle and through the forceful and abusive hand of government, I regretfully was forced to cast a no vote.