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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Rehabilitation Services members win Senate approval

MONTGOMERY – The state Senate recently approved the appointments of two members to the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services.

Both Jimmie Varnado, of Montgomery, and Russell G. Brown, of Huntsville, were approved with a unanimous vote of 31-0.

Winona Nelson, interim commissioner of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, said she is pleased the two men are joining the board, which has seven members representing each of the state's congressional districts.

"I'm delighted," Nelson said. "Both men are highly accomplished and very well-qualified. They bring a business perspective to the board that is invaluable during these tough economic times."

Varnado is a retired branch manager/assistant vice president of Sterling Bank in Montgomery. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 28 years, retiring in 2000 as a lieutenant colonel after heading the Air Force's national Junior ROTC program. Varnado was confirmed for a full term, having served out the remainder of another member's unexpired term. He represents the 2nd Congressional District.

Brown represents the 5th Congressional District. He is the founder of DP Associates, an information technology firm based in Huntsville. The firm has a wide variety of private industry and government clients, including NASA, Boeing, four military branches and numerous other agencies and firms. Brown is very active in the Huntsville community and serves as the chairman of the Huntsville Hospital Board of Directors.

They join board members Stephen G. Kayes, District 1; Chairwoman Patricia Floyd, District 3; David Brock, District 4; Roger McCullough, District 6; and Mitch Strickland, District 7.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.