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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Birmingham Association of REALTORS® Commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act with its Documentary Launch

Birmingham, October 15, 2018 – For decades, Realtors® – members of the National Association of Realtors® (NAR)– have supported a free, open market that embraces fairness and equal opportunity for all buyers and sellers. Members of the **Birmingham Association of REALTORS® (BAR)** strongly support the Fair Housing Act, legislation first passed in 1968 and now prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status and national origin.

This year, Realtors® from the Birmingham metro joined Realtors® across the country to embark on a yearlong commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act to raise awareness for fair housing issues. Entering the final quarter of this momentous commemoration, the BAR community affairs department, led by Jasmine Sanderfer, and the BAR Public Relations Committee, chaired by REALTOR® Deb White, made a significant impact in raising awareness of Birmingham’s fair housing story. On Friday, the 12th hundreds gathered at Railroad Park, to view the launching of the BAR produced documentary “Fair Housing in Birmingham: An Untold Story”. The documentary was followed by a popular children’s film, *A Wrinkle in Time*.

“Realtors® continue to recognize the significance of this important act and reconfirm our commitment to upholding fair housing law, as well as our commitment to offering equal professional service to all in their search for a home or property. Realtors® work hard to build strong communities and neighborhoods where all people can live and prosper,” said Birmingham CEO, Dr. Dawn Kennedy. “In addition to our REALTOR family this project had considerable support with community partners and sponsors: Coca-Cola, the City of Birmingham, the Northern Alabama Fair Housing Center, Naughty but Nice Popcorn, the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, the Women’s Council of REALTORS®, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute” explained Kennedy.

Over the years, NAR has developed educational information on diversity and fair housing laws, programs and resources that have helped educate Realtors® across the country on the importance of inclusive housing practices and the promotion of diverse homeownership. During the yearlong commemoration, NAR will further examine community fair housing issues and advocate for changes to the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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Realtors® will focus on three key elements in 2018: acknowledging the organization's changing role in the fight for fair housing, understanding how we as a nation are constantly improving our commitment to fair housing and ways Realtors® strive to lead efforts to address fair housing policy issues.

“Fair housing protects the American Dream of homeownership for all citizens, and the BAR is thrilled to actively participate in commemorating the anniversary and supporting the development of healthy and diverse communities, as well as supporting the Northern Alabama Fair Housing Center,” BAR President, Kim Mangham- Barelare said.

The Birmingham Association of REALTORS® and its subsidiary Greater Alabama MLS is the leading resource for all real estate information in the Birmingham Metropolitan Area including Blount, Chilton, Jefferson & Shelby Counties. Visit us at www.birminghamrealtors.com

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