

1 SJR45
2 117038-1
3 By Senator Little (T)
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 04-FEB-10

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. TENNIS CLINTON BRITTON,
9 JR.
10

11 WHEREAS, it is with an inconsolable sense of loss
12 that this legislative body records the death of Mr. Tennis
13 Clinton "T. C." Britton, Jr., of Smiths Station, Alabama, on
14 November 12, 2009, at the age of 77; and

15 WHEREAS, widely known as "Mr. Smiths Station," Mr.
16 Britton was a beloved coach, esteemed educator, and dedicated
17 civic leader; and

18 WHEREAS, a veteran of the Korean War, he served with
19 honor and distinction in the First Airborne Division of the
20 United States Army; his educational credentials included a
21 Bachelor's Degree from the University of West Alabama and both
22 a Master's Degree and an AA in Administration from Auburn
23 University; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Britton's successful coaching tenure at
25 Smiths Station High School began in 1956 and spanned 13 years,
26 during which he compiled a 99-25-1 gridiron record and led the
27 team to the State Football Championship; in addition, he had a

1 177-58 record as a basketball coach and 148-31 in baseball;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, in 1968, Mr. Britton stepped away from
4 coaching and embarked upon a distinguished 24-year career as
5 Superintendent of Lee County Schools; and

6 WHEREAS, among his roles of community leadership,
7 Mr. Britton was a longtime member of the Smiths Station
8 Ruritan Club, and in September 2009 he was honored by the
9 Opelika Kiwanis Club for 40 years of dedicated service; his
10 additional honors included induction into the Alabama High
11 School Sports Hall of Fame; and

12 WHEREAS, for 53 years, Mr. Britton was a devout
13 member of Smiths Station Baptist Church, teaching Sunday
14 School for 24 years and serving in numerous other capacities
15 including deacon and trustee; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Britton was a great motivator who made
17 the transition from coaching to administration and was
18 responsible for many improvements in the Lee County School
19 System, focusing on a commitment to educational excellence as
20 well as providing a network of solid, suitable school
21 buildings to enhance the learning process; and

22 WHEREAS, through the years, Mr. Britton earned
23 widespread respect for his exceptional abilities and tireless
24 commitment; he devoted the entirety of his noble life to
25 Smiths Station and Lee County, and his legacy will endure for
26 future generations; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. Tennis
3 Clinton Britton, Jr., is recorded with deep sadness, this
4 resolution is offered in highest tribute to his life of
5 achievement and service, along with heartfelt sympathy to his
6 widow, Vernice Lowery Britton, and the family.