

1 SJR115
2 130896-1
3 By Senator Whatley
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 04-MAY-11

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. R. ONEAL SMITHERMAN.
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10 WHEREAS, with an overwhelming sense of loss, we
11 receive news of the death of Dr. R. Oneal "Smitty" Smitherman
12 on April 14, 2011, at the age of 73 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Smitherman was Professor Emeritus at
14 Auburn University's Department of Fisheries and Allied
15 Aquaculture; and

16 WHEREAS, born on August 26, 1937, in Randolph,
17 Alabama, he had lived at Lake Martin in Dadeville since
18 retirement; and

19 WHEREAS, his loves in life were his family and
20 Auburn University, with a special regard for Auburn
21 University's Arboretum; there he left a legacy of beauty
22 through his much beloved native azaleas collected from every
23 county in Alabama where they grow naturally; his plantings
24 grace the Auburn campus and many private gardens, and his most
25 recent endeavor was lobbying for change of the State Flower
26 from the exotic Camellia to the native Rhododendron
27 Alabamense; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Smitherman received numerous awards for
2 his work at Auburn University's Fisheries and Allied
3 Aquaculture Department; he was recognized throughout the
4 country and internationally for the impact of his research,
5 which was instrumental to the current successful farming
6 practices of catfish, tilapia, redfish, snapper, salmon,
7 shrimp, and other species; and

8 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Patsy Linton
9 Smitherman; daughters and sons-in-law, Shelly and Mike Parks
10 and Susan and Jason White; sister, Patty Pruitt; and brother,
11 Marshall Smitherman; preceding him in death were his parents,
12 Grover and Gladys Epperson Smitherman; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Smitherman's contributions to Auburn
14 University and to the State of Alabama were innumerable and
15 far-reaching; although his presence will be missed, his legacy
16 will endure and his memory will be cherished in the hearts and
17 minds of those who were fortunate to know him; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Dr. R. Oneal
20 Smitherman is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution
21 is offered in highest tribute to his life, along with
22 heartfelt sympathy to his grieving family.