

1 HR36
2 147883-2
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Patterson, Ball, Johnson (W),
4 Williams (P), McCutcheon and Hall
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 12-FEB-13

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. JULIAN DAVIDSON, SPACE AND
9 MISSILE DEFENSE PIONEER AND U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER
10 BENEFACTOR.
11

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Julian Davidson of Huntsville, Alabama,
13 founder of Davidson Technologies and benefactor of the U.S.
14 Space & Rocket Center's Davidson Center for Space Exploration,
15 died January 31, 2013; and

16 WHEREAS, a native of Oakman, Alabama, in Walker
17 County, Dr. Davidson received a Bachelor's Degree in
18 Electrical Engineering from Auburn University and a Doctor of
19 Science Degree from Southeastern Institute of Technology; and

20 WHEREAS, before founding the aerospace and defense
21 company Davidson Technologies in 1996, Dr. Davidson was Deputy
22 Program Manager of Ballistic Missile Defense for the U.S. Army
23 and was the first director of the Advanced Ballistic Missile
24 Defense Agency; and

25 WHEREAS, a pioneer of space and missile defense, Dr.
26 Davidson's distinguished career spanned nearly 60 years; his

1 technical expertise combined with unparalleled leadership
2 talents propelled him through a long and illustrious career
3 achieving success in both government and industry; his legacy
4 lives on in many of the technologies in use today in the
5 development of our space and missile defense systems; and

6 WHEREAS, the employees of Davidson Technologies are
7 especially saddened because Dr. Davidson was a friend and
8 mentor, and his kind, humble, and gentle spirit inspired
9 everyone who worked for him; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Davidson is remembered for his
11 generosity in the Huntsville community; he and his wife,
12 Dorothy, donated \$2 million to boost fund-raising efforts for
13 the 68,000 square-foot, \$22 million Davidson Center for Space
14 Exploration at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center; the Davidson
15 Center, which opened in 2008, houses a restored original
16 Saturn V rocket, one of only three remaining in the world, and
17 the center has become a premiere tourist attraction in North
18 Alabama; and

19 WHEREAS, the Davidsons also generously contributed
20 \$2 million toward the construction of the Davidson Center for
21 the Arts at the Huntsville Museum of Art; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Davidson is survived by his wife,
23 Dorothy Davidson; children, Diana Lynn Davidson, M.D., Janice
24 Faye Davidson, Randall Eugene Davidson, and Robert Lee (Amy)
25 Davidson; grandchildren, Wendy Faith Holderfield and William

1 Blair Peyton; and great-granddaughters, Teagan Holderfield,
2 Shelby Holderfield, and Michaela Holderfield; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the entire Madison County
5 Legislative Delegation joins the House of Representatives in
6 mourning the death of Dr. Julian Davidson.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we give thanks to God
8 for the extraordinary life and service of Dr. Davidson, and we
9 extend our deepest heartfelt sympathy to his family, for whom
10 a copy of this resolution is provided.