

1 HR537  
2 161348-1  
3 By Representatives Bridges and Hubbard (M)  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 03-APR-14

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7  
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF J. SMITH LANIER, II.  
9

10 WHEREAS, we deeply regret and are saddened to learn  
11 of the death of Mr. J. Smith Lanier, II, of West Point,  
12 Georgia, in December, 2013; his life of 85 years is celebrated  
13 and commended with great thanksgiving; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Lanier graduated from West Point High  
15 School in 1945; he was an Eagle Scout, attended Auburn  
16 University, and obtained a degree in Mechanical Engineering  
17 from the United States Merchant Marine Academy; he served in  
18 the United States Navy during the Korean War with two years of  
19 active duty as Engineering Officer aboard the USS Ault DD698;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, returning from war, he purchased his aunt's  
22 insurance agency and incorporated it under the name of J.  
23 Smith Lanier & Co., which he developed into one of the oldest  
24 and largest insurance brokerage firms in the United States;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, a strong advocate for education at all  
27 levels, he supported both public and private education and was

1 a founder of Springwood School in Lanett, Alabama; he was a  
2 seventh-generation member of Spring Road Christian Church in  
3 Lanett, Alabama, where he served as Chairman of the Board,  
4 Elder, and Trustee throughout his life; he desired to change  
5 the world through Christ and believed quality education and  
6 spiritual training were the means to that end; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Lanier was active in local, regional,  
8 and national politics; he helped launch many business  
9 ventures, including being a founding director of five publicly  
10 traded companies; Auburn University was dear to Mr. Lanier and  
11 was the recipient of much of his efforts and energies during  
12 his lifetime; he served on the Dean's Advisory Board of the  
13 College of Human Sciences, the Auburn University Foundation  
14 Board, the 1856 Society, and was a life member of the Alumni  
15 Association; in 2000, Auburn University honored Mr. Lanier  
16 with the International Quality of Life Award and in 2010, he  
17 was presented the Auburn University Alumni Association  
18 Lifetime Achievement Award; and

19 WHEREAS, known for his service to others as an  
20 entrepreneur, business leader, community servant, corporate  
21 citizen, philanthropist, counselor, husband, father,  
22 grandfather, and friend, Mr. Lanier was preceded in death by  
23 his parents, Campbell B. and Bertie T. Lanier, and his  
24 brother, Campbell B. Lanier, Jr.; and

25 WHEREAS, leaving a legacy of integrity, service and  
26 commitment to God, family, and country, his survivors include  
27 his beloved and devoted wife of 56 years, Elizabeth Walker

1 (Betty) Lanier; daughters, Mary Ellen (Anthony Lee) Collins,  
2 Elizabeth Lanier Lester, and Edith Carol (Joseph Wiley)  
3 Hodges; grandchildren, Mary Elizabeth Lester (Mary Beth),  
4 Anthony Lee Collins, Jr., (Lee), James Russell Lester (Jamey),  
5 Carroll Lanier Collins (Lanier), Smith Walker Collins (Smith),  
6 Joseph Crocket Hodges (Joseph), William Dow Hodges (William),  
7 and David Lanier Hodges (David); sisters, Mary (John) Champion  
8 and Sally (Malcolm) Davenport; former son-in-law, Hazen  
9 Russell Lester, III (Russ); sister-in-law, Sydney Gaines  
10 Lanier; and a host of other relatives and friends; and

11 WHEREAS, although he is greatly missed, his legacy  
12 will continue and his memory will be cherished in the hearts  
13 and minds of all those who were fortunate enough to know him;  
14 now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
16 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of  
17 J. Smith Lanier, II, we are immensely grateful for his  
18 precious life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute  
19 to his legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to his family  
20 and friends.