

1 SJR40
2 158025-1
3 By Senator Waggoner
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 06-FEB-14

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8 HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE DEATH OF ROBERT
9 M. BRISSIE, M.D.

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11 WHEREAS, it is with an overwhelming sense of loss
12 that we mourn the death of Robert M. Brissie, M.D., of Hoover,
13 Alabama, on November 9, 2013, at the age of 70 years; and

14 WHEREAS, born on November 9, 1943, he received his
15 undergraduate degree at Furman University in 1966 and
16 graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina in
17 1970, followed by being accepted for a pathology residency and
18 later serving as Deputy Chief Medical Examiner in Charleston,
19 South Carolina; and

20 WHEREAS, since 1980, Dr. Brissie had served as
21 Jefferson County's Chief Coroner/Medical Examiner and in many
22 additional capacities of public service and professional
23 leadership; he was a full Professor and Director of the
24 Division of Forensic Pathology at the University of Alabama at
25 Birmingham, participated in the Crime Investigation Program at
26 Jefferson State Community College, and also served as Sheriff
27 of Jefferson County for an interim period; and

1 WHEREAS, an extremely competent forensic
2 pathologist, he was well-known and highly rated among medical
3 examiners throughout the country; over the years, he was an
4 important resource in matters of death investigation and was
5 an authoritative witness in the courtroom; and

6 WHEREAS, among the highlights of his distinguished
7 career, he provided reconstruction and testimony concerning
8 the bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, and
9 his expertise was invaluable in a number of other high profile
10 cases; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Brissie was also a leader in
12 professional organizations, community affairs, and worthy
13 causes; his well-deserved honors included the Community
14 Service Award presented by the Injury Prevention Center of
15 UAB, the Person of Vision Award, and the Helen Keller Award,
16 among many others; and

17 WHEREAS, survivors include his wife, Nancy Thomas
18 Brissie; daughter, Sara Mills Brissie Olvey; and grandson,
19 Robert Stanley Olvey; he was predeceased by his parents,
20 Samuel Carlton Brissie and Allene Mills Brissie, and brother,
21 George Brissie; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Brissie was a valued member of the
23 community; his legacy will endure, and his memory will be
24 cherished in the hearts of those who were fortunate to know
25 him; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Robert M.

1 Brissie, M.D., is recorded with deep sadness, and this
2 resolution is offered in highest tribute to his life and with
3 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
4 many.