

1 SJR87
2 160146-2
3 By Senators Allen, McGill, Glover, Holtzclaw, Smith, Taylor,
4 Williams, Fielding, Holley, Hightower, Blackwell, Waggoner,
5 Coleman, Dunn, Beasley, Irons, Figures, Ross, Keahey and
6 Bussman
7 RFD:
8 First Read: 18-MAR-14

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF FORMER UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
9 PRESIDENT JOAB L. THOMAS.

10
11 WHEREAS, we note the death of former University of
12 Alabama President Joab L. Thomas with deep sadness and regret;
13 his immeasurable life of 81 years is commended and celebrated
14 with great thanksgiving; and

15 WHEREAS, the passing of Dr. Thomas leaves a void in
16 the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the entire
17 community, where he was highly regarded; and

18 WHEREAS, born in Holt, Alabama, on Valentine's Day
19 in 1933, he was the son of a school superintendent and music
20 teacher; he grew up as a standout athlete who enjoyed the
21 outdoors in Russellville, Alabama; he was offered athletic
22 scholarships in football, but he chose to accept an academic
23 scholarship to Harvard, where he earned his bachelor's,
24 master's, and doctoral degrees in biology; and

25 WHEREAS, over the course of his distinguished
26 career, he taught at Harvard University, held teaching and
27 administrative positions at UA, served as Chancellor of North

1 Carolina State University, and served as President at UA from
2 1981 to 1988 and Pennsylvania State University from 1990 to
3 1995; and

4 WHEREAS, he married his beloved and devoted wife,
5 Mary Dukes, on December 22, 1954, and fathered four children,
6 Catherine, David, Jennifer, and Frances; and

7 WHEREAS, through the years, he earned immense
8 respect for his tireless dedication, exceptional abilities,
9 and strong integrity, and he enriched the lives of countless
10 students; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas was a valued member of the
12 community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory
13 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were
14 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That while grieving the death of
17 Dr. Joab L. Thomas, we are highly grateful for his abundant
18 life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute to his
19 inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to his
20 family and friends.