

1 HJR311
2 170218-2
3 By Representatives Davis and Faust
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 28-MAY-15

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
MOURNING THE DEATH OF JEFFREY WAYNE RIDGEWAY.

WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we mourn the death of Mr. Jeffrey Wayne Ridgeway of Athens, Alabama, who passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2015, at the age of 50 years; and

WHEREAS, born December 2, 1964, Mr. Ridgeway was born with a heart defect and other disabilities, but in spite of his difficulties he became a strong and lifelong advocate for employment rights for persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, known by many state legislators but a household name with the Mobile County Delegation, Mr. Ridgeway tirelessly worked to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, taking legendary bus rides to and from Montgomery; his belief was that "a person with a disability will give you an honest day's work for an honest dollar," and that "everybody deserves a shot;" and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ridgeway was a past president of People First, an advocacy group comprised of persons with disabilities; he served on numerous committees over the years at the Department of Mental Health, where his wisdom and input were always welcome and appreciated; and

1 WHEREAS, a graduate of West Limestone High School in
2 1983, Mr. Ridgeway moved to Mobile after his mother's passing
3 and began working at Goodwill to prove he could succeed in
4 competitive employment; after two years he was hired at the
5 Azalea Road Bruno's and worked his way through a host of jobs,
6 becoming known as an especially dependable employee; he
7 continued there until he was advised by his physician to
8 discontinue manual labor because of his increasingly failing
9 heart; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Ridgeway was preceded in death by his
11 mother, Wanda Tucker Ridgeway, and his stepmother, Pat
12 Ridgeway; he leaves to cherish his memory his father, Fletcher
13 (Carolyn) Ridgeway, one brother, Joey (Sharon) Ridgeway, two
14 sisters, Dana (Michael) Moody and Jessica (Trent) Henson,
15 three step-brothers, six nieces, and three nephews; and

16 WHEREAS, he demonstrated the same hard work in his
17 employment and in his advocacy for others with disabilities;
18 his friends acknowledge he could be hard to get along with,
19 but it was precisely that tenacity that allowed him to succeed
20 in his life's mission of awareness and advocacy for the
21 employment of persons with disabilities; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we record with deep sadness
24 the death of Mr. Jeffrey Wayne Ridgeway, and by copy of this

1 resolution we offer our heartfelt sympathy to his family and
2 friends, whose grief is shared by many.

