

1 HR341  
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3 By Representative Carns  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 26-APR-16

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.  
9 MELVIN J. MURPHREE.

10  
11 WHEREAS, we deeply regret and are greatly saddened  
12 to learn of the death of Mr. Melvin J. Murphree on April 19,  
13 2016, at 77 years of age, and we uplift his inspiring life and  
14 legacy with utmost reverence and respect; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphree graduated from Hueytown High  
19 School in 1957 and attended The University of Alabama School  
20 of Engineering; he was a member of the American Society of  
21 Mechanical Engineers and served as Chair of the Birmingham  
22 Society of Manufacturing Engineers and as a member of the  
23 Industrial Development Board for the City of Pelham; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphree selflessly served as Chair of  
25 the Salvation Army Advisory Board for Shelby County and was  
26 honored with a Life Membership for distinguished service in  
27 2009; since 1984, he served God and his community as a member

1 of the Pelham Lions Club, progressing to District Governor and  
2 Council Chair of Lions of Alabama; notably, he was a Melvin  
3 Jones Fellow; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphree served his country as a member  
5 of the Alabama National Guard from 1962 until 1968; and

6 WHEREAS, with a passion for dancing, he served as  
7 President of the Jackals Dance Club and as President of the  
8 Birmingham Fraternal Council of Dance Clubs; he was a fine  
9 singer and musician who entertained with numerous bands across  
10 the state; furthermore, he served as judge and master of  
11 ceremonies on the Miss Alabama panel for the Miss America  
12 Scholarship Program; and

13 WHEREAS, a man of God, Mr. Murphree devotedly served  
14 as a Deacon at Briarwood Presbyterian Church, where he had  
15 been a member of the Deeper Life Sunday School Class since  
16 1989; and

17 WHEREAS, survivors include his beloved and devoted  
18 wife and soulmate of 35 years, Dianna Brown Murphree; his  
19 mother, Violet H. Murphree; daughters, Lisa M. Gamble (Mike)  
20 and Kathy M. Stephens (Leroy); his stepsons, M. Brandy  
21 Stephens, D. Brady Stephens, and P. Brody Stephens;  
22 grandchildren, Matt Stephens, Taylor Stephens, Brandon  
23 Stephens, Samantha Stephens, and Lauren Stephens; five  
24 siblings, William Murphree (Bunny), Annie Ruth Shepherd  
25 (Thomas), Dwain Murphree (Sue), Janice Howard (Gene), and Fred  
26 Murphree; and a host of nieces and nephews; he was preceded in  
27 death by his father, Clifford Murphree; and

1                   WHEREAS, Mr. Murphree was a valued member of the  
2                   community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory  
3                   is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were  
4                   fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

5                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
6                   THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of  
7                   Mr. Melvin J. Murphree, we are extremely grateful for his  
8                   abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute  
9                   to his inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to  
10                   his family and friends.