

1 HR64  
2 174397-1  
3 By Representative Sanderford  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 23-FEB-16

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8 CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HERMAN AUSTIN  
9 WATSON, JR.

10  
11 WHEREAS, with utmost reverence and respect, we  
12 uplift the inspiring life and legacy of Herman Austin "Buck"  
13 Watson, Jr., of Huntsville, Alabama, who passed away January  
14 26, 2016, at 82 years of age; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Watson attended Vanderbilt University,  
19 where he played both offense and defense as the football  
20 team's left tackle, between 1951 and 1955, earning the  
21 moniker, "60-Minute Man;" for many years, he held the SEC  
22 record for the highest average number of minutes per game, 55;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Watson was an eighth-round draft pick  
25 for the Philadelphia Eagles, but chose instead to play for the  
26 Calgary Stampeders in the Canadian Football League; he

1 maintained a lifelong interest in sports, serving on the Board  
2 of Directors of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and acting as  
3 the biggest fan and unofficial coach of his children and  
4 grandchildren; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Watson was inducted into both the  
6 Madison County Sports Hall of Fame and the DeKalb County  
7 Sports Hall of Fame; he served as a history teacher and coach  
8 at Lafayette High School in Chambers County, Alabama, leading  
9 the school's football program to its first victory season in  
10 many years; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1961, Mr. Watson graduated from The  
12 University of Alabama School of Law, where he was a member of  
13 the Law Review and the Bench and Bar Legal Honor Society;  
14 after graduation, he returned to Lafayette, where he opened  
15 his first law practice and served as the County Solicitor; he  
16 relocated to Huntsville and gained a national reputation as a  
17 tireless advocate for justice and the oppressed; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Watson was a Fellow of both the  
19 International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the Alabama Law  
20 Foundation, a member of the Alabama Association for Justice  
21 and the American Association for Justice and past President of  
22 the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association; he served on a  
23 multitude of boards including his tenure as the Chair of the  
24 Board of the St. Andrews School in Sewanee, Tennessee, and his  
25 service to the Access to Justice Commission, the Alabama  
26 Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Alabama

1 Civil Justice Foundation; he faithfully served as a Sunday  
2 School teacher, lay leader, and Chair of the Administrative  
3 Board of Epworth United Methodist Church; and

4 WHEREAS, survivors include his beloved and devoted  
5 wife, Janet Mangham Watson; children, Cornelia Welch Watson  
6 (Carey Roberts); LeeAnna Yarbrough Keith (Brian Plane), James  
7 Hudley Watson (Jane), Rebekah Keith McKinney, Elmer Jacobs  
8 Watson (Mary Tally), and Jack Watson (Sheila); grandchildren,  
9 Annabelle, Jack, Jake, Marshall, Sam, Emma, Janet, Daniel,  
10 John-John, Griffin, Anne-Louise, Rosalie, Austin, Dylan, and  
11 Chloe; special friend, Sam Keith; longtime office  
12 collaborators, Marcia Perkins and Theresa Willits; and many  
13 dear friends; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Watson was a valued member of the  
15 community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory  
16 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were  
17 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
19 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of  
20 Mr. Herman Austin Watson, Jr., we are extremely grateful for  
21 his abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest  
22 tribute to his inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt  
23 sympathy to his family and friends.