

1 SJR5
2 173034-1
3 By Senator Orr
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 02-FEB-16

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. JACK ALLEN.
9

10 WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we receive
11 news of the death of Mr. Jack Allen of Decatur, Alabama, on
12 December 25, 2015, at the age of 84 years; and

13 WHEREAS, the passing of Mr. Allen leaves a void in
14 the lives of his loving family, his many friends, and the
15 entire community, where he was well-known and highly regarded;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen was born June 11, 1931, in
18 Austinville, Alabama, to William O. and Inez Sparkman Allen;
19 he was a 1949 graduate of Austinville High School, where he
20 played basketball and earned a scholarship to the University
21 of North Alabama, formerly Florence State Teachers College;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, his passion for basketball led him to
24 become an Alabama High School Athletic Association Basketball
25 Official, still serving as an official observer until the time
26 of his passing; in addition he served his beloved country in
27 the United States 32nd Infantry Regiment in Korea, and after

1 fulfilling his military service he dedicated 20 years of his
2 life to the City of Decatur's youth as a Dixie Youth Baseball
3 Coach, earning him a place in the 1992 Morgan County Sports
4 Hall of Fame; and

5 WHEREAS, his service to his community continued
6 when, in 1976, he was elected to a seat on the Decatur City
7 Council, a position he was elected to for six consecutive
8 four-year terms, totalling 24 years; one of the highest honors
9 bestowed upon him was the unexpected naming of The Jack Allen
10 Recreation and Soccer Complex; and

11 WHEREAS, his grandfather, Asbury Sparkman, was the
12 City Clerk of Austinville, from whom he learned at a young age
13 the importance of service to his community; he would attend
14 church with his grandfather at Austinville Methodist Church,
15 where the Christian principles instilled in him there were
16 carried with him throughout the rest of his life; his favorite
17 scripture was Philipppians 4:13, and he would say that he would
18 do anything that was asked of him because he believed the
19 responsibility was a calling of God, often saying "I'll give
20 it my best shot"; during his retirement, he began another
21 career in the insurance business and enjoyed cleaning up his
22 motor home to travel to Alabama football games; and

23 WHEREAS, preceding him in death were his parents,
24 two brothers, William O. Allen, Jr., and Tommy Allen, two
25 sisters, Mary Allen Davis and Irene Allen Hayes; and

26 WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of 61
27 years, Betty Allen; his son, Stuart (Roslyn) Allen; his

1 daughter, Beth Allen; his grandsons, Parker Allen and Hunter
2 Allen; one sister, Becky McIntyre; and several nieces,
3 nephews, and cousins; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen was a valued member of the
5 community; although his presence will be missed, his memory
6 will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who were
7 fortunate to know him; now therefore,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
9 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. Jack Allen is
10 recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in
11 highest tribute to his life and with heartfelt sympathy to his
12 family, whose grief is shared by many.