

1 HR287
2 185262-1
3 By Representative Givan
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 13-APR-17

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
9 LEGACY OF RENOWNED COACH ANDREW ANTHONY SEWELL.

10
11 WHEREAS, we deeply regret and are greatly saddened
12 to learn of the death of renowned Coach Andrew Anthony Sewell
13 on April 8, 2017, and we uplift his inspiring life and legacy
14 with utmost reverence and respect; and

15 WHEREAS, the passing of Coach Andrew Anthony Sewell
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, Coach Sewell was born in Selma, Alabama, on
19 April 25, 1935, and was reared by his mother, Edmonia Walters
20 Acoff, and his stepfather, Mose Acoff; his father was the late
21 George Sewell; and

22 WHEREAS, he was a star athlete at R.B. Hudson High
23 School, where he was named to All-City, All-County, and
24 All-State in basketball and football and also excelled in golf
25 and track, earning the moniker, "Bo Diddley"; he received a
26 four-year scholarship to Alabama State University in

1 Montgomery, Alabama, where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree
2 in 1961 and Master's Degree in 1971; and

3 WHEREAS, while attending Alabama State University,
4 he lettered in basketball, football, golf, and track and led
5 the football team to a Collegiate Conference Championship as
6 Captain in 1959, earning the Most Outstanding Athlete Award;
7 extremely gifted, he also served as the starting forward on
8 the basketball team and was captain of the golf team; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Sewell embarked upon his coaching and
10 teaching career at Council Training School in Normal, Alabama,
11 in 1961; he married the love of his life, school librarian
12 Nancy Gardner in 1963; in 1966, Coach Sewell returned to Selma
13 to accept the head coaching position at his alma mater, R.B.
14 Hudson High School, where he remained until 1970; he became
15 the assistant basketball coach of the newly integrated Selma
16 High School in 1970 and resumed his position as Head
17 Basketball Coach in 1977; and

18 WHEREAS, during his exceptional 19-year tenure as
19 Head Basketball Coach at Selma High School, he led the Selma
20 Saints to area or state playoffs 12 out of 19 years including
21 two state runner-up finishes and two third place finishes in
22 Class 6A High School State tournaments, compiled an impressive
23 record of 465 wins and 161 losses, made school history by
24 securing seven consecutive 20-game winning seasons during his
25 first eight years as head coach, and was voted High School
26 Coach of the Year three times; and

1 WHEREAS, Coach Sewell was a trailblazer for African
2 Americans in the sport of golf and earned recognition as one
3 of the leading golfers in the Southeast during the 1970s; he
4 won over 90 trophies and his triumphs on the golfing circuit
5 during the 1970s and 1980s paved the way for the likes of
6 Tiger Woods; Coach Sewell made a remarkable recovery through
7 strength and determination after incurring a life-altering
8 stroke 1988; he made the toughest decision of his life and
9 resigned as Head Basketball Coach at Selma High School in 1989
10 but continued to teach math, coach golf, and coordinate the
11 physical education program at the school until his retirement
12 in 1997; and

13 WHEREAS, in retirement, he continued to support his
14 beloved Selma High School Saints and enjoyed 13 years of good
15 health until three strokes in 2001 left him wheel-chair
16 dependent; despite his health challenges over the next 15
17 years, he continued to demonstrate the same heart,
18 determination, faith, and effort he expected of his athletes;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, he was a faithful and dedicated member of
21 Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Selma, Alabama; and

22 WHEREAS, survivors include his beloved and devoted
23 wife of 54 years, Nancy Gardner Sewell; four children, Mary
24 Brown, Terri, Andrew, and Anthony Sewell; three grandchildren,
25 Neshambia Sewell, Taylor Gray Sewell, and Carter Andrew
26 Sewell; five siblings, Mary Brown, Frances Canty, Ann Woodard
27 (Dallas), Pearlie Rowzee (Eddie), and Emerson Acoff; and six

1 in-laws, Dorothy Sanders (Eddie), John Gardner (Barbara),
2 Theresa Douglass (Charlie), Tom Gardner, III, (Estelle),
3 Gloria Humphrey (Frank), and Negatha Holt; and a host of
4 nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and a devoted caregiver,
5 Greg Olds; and

6 WHEREAS, Coach Sewell was a valued member of the
7 community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory
8 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were
9 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
11 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
12 renowned Coach Andrew Anthony Sewell, we are extremely
13 grateful for his abundant life, and we offer this resolution
14 in highest tribute to his powerful legacy, as well as in
15 heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends.