

1 HR516
2 185769-2
3 By Representatives Rowe, Ainsworth, Alexander, Baker, Ball,
4 Bandy, Beckman, Beech, Black, Blackshear, Boothe, Boyd, Bracy,
5 Brown, Buskey, Butler, Carns, Chesteen, Chestnut, Clarke,
6 Clouse, Coleman, Collins, Crawford, Daniels, Davis, Drake,
7 Drummond, Ellis, England, Farley, Faulkner, Faust, Fincher,
8 Ford, Forte, Fridy, Garrett, Gaston, Givan, Greer, Grimsley,
9 Hall, Hammon, Hanes, Harbison, Harper, Henry, Hill, Hollis,
10 Holmes (A), Holmes (M), Howard, Hurst, Ingram, Jackson,
11 Johnson (K), Johnson (R), Jones, Knight, Lawrence, Ledbetter,
12 Lee, Lindsey, Lovvorn, Martin, McCampbell, McClammy,
13 McCutcheon, McMillan, Millican, Mooney, Moore (B), Moore (M),
14 Morrow, Nordgren, Patterson, Pettus, Polizos, Pringle, Rich,
15 Rogers, Sanderford, Scott, Sells, Sessions, Shedd, Shiver,
16 South, Standridge, Todd, Treadaway, Tuggle, Wadsworth, Warren,
17 Weaver, Whorton (I), Whorton (R), Wilcox, Williams (JD),
18 Williams (JW), Williams (P), Wingo and Wood
19 RFD:
20 First Read: 19-MAY-17

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8 DESIGNATING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2017 SHROUD AWARD.

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10 WHEREAS, it is once again time for the annual Shroud
11 Award, in which the deadest legislation of the 2017 Regular
12 Session is revealed. Tradition holds that the prior 13 unlucky
13 recipients participate in selecting the next awardee and the
14 most recent winner sponsors the Shroud resolution. The lady
15 from Walker won this honor in 2016 for her bill concerning
16 fantasy sport contests.

17 Before we continue, we want to remind everyone that
18 this resolution is all in good fun. You remember fun, it's
19 what you had prior to being elected to the Legislature. After
20 a long session of discord and deadlock, you deserve some
21 lighthearted levity. You've worked extra hard. You guys were
22 down here passing legislation when normal folks were asleep.
23 By our count, you worked past 8 o'clock 14 times. After such a
24 difficult workload, it's good to celebrate sine die day with
25 some humor. So, please don't take offense if you are the
26 subject of our ribbing. After all, if you can't take a joke,

1 it just means you either need a nap or you're Presidential
2 material.

3 One debate this session concerned legislation to
4 require high school students to pass a civics test. At times,
5 the discourse resembled the TV show "Are You Smarter Than A
6 5th Grader?" Regrettably, a lot of the questions discussed
7 were national in scope. As a public service, the Shroud
8 Committee has attempted to DESIGN AND BUILD, now that's a
9 phrase that's lost its luster, an Alabama-based civics test.
10 If the following queries don't make you laugh, you are
11 brighter than you look, or more likely, you're running for the
12 U.S. Senate. Pick up your pencils and begin.

13 1. This is the 39th anniversary of the Shroud Award.
14 Which continuously serving members of the House heard the
15 reading of the first shroud resolution in 1979?
16 Representatives Alvin Holmes, Ron Johnson, and James Buskey.
17 No, Mr. Speaker, you weren't here 39 years ago, it just feels
18 that way.

19 2. What is Strange, Pryor, and Sessions? No, not
20 former Alabama Attorneys General. It's what folks will be
21 calling the last 102 days: A Strange Prior Session.

22 3. What fantasy sports contest has sadly been
23 cancelled? A Governor's race between Tim James, Charles
24 Barkley, and Tommy Tuberville. Perhaps it didn't work because
25 the moon and stars weren't properly aligned and the TIDE was
26 out.

1 4. What is the most detested voice in the House of
2 Representatives? Don't flatter yourself. It's the Robot
3 Reader. The bedtime stories he recites never have a happy
4 ending and he repeatedly brags about how many times he's been
5 around the BLOCK. Someone should hook him up with Alexa, as he
6 definitely needs to go out.

7 5. What is the unofficial state vine? Nope, it's not
8 Kudzu. It's a lovely evergreen IVY that sprouted at the
9 reading clerk's position in this chamber and now entwines the
10 Executive Branch. Who says being a legislative staffer is a
11 Dead End Job?

12 6. What is the state rock? It's Marble. Extra credit
13 will be given to Chairman Jones and the Judiciary Committee
14 since they lost all of theirs trying to formulate an
15 impeachment process.

16 7. What is the state tree? Yes, it is still the
17 Southern Longleaf Pine, but the Mimosa is gaining in
18 popularity, especially on Sunday mornings around BRUNCH time.

19 8. What is the state song? For this chamber, it
20 should be Gonna WAIT 'Til the Midnight Hour.

21 9. What well known Alabama product has a new slogan?
22 Zeigler, Alabama's best ham.

23 Did you ace it? If you failed the test, shame on
24 you.

25 All right, time to move on. Custom requires us to
26 review the Shroud Award runners-up FORTHWITH; which everyone
27 knows means between NOW and NEVER. We might as well get it

1 over with, as the gentle lady from Jasper has her paddles in
2 the water and is ready to Rowe. Those bills which were bad,
3 but not bad enough to capture the grand reward are:

4 House Bill 218 by Representative Pettus, the
5 Anti-Road Rage Act, limiting driving in the far left lane of
6 an interstate highway. Skeptics suggested a different name:
7 Pass or Be Punished. Written up by the respected retired state
8 trooper from the number one district, this repeat offender
9 aimed its radar gun on both ends of the spectrum: super
10 speeders and slow pokers. Everyone supports stopping road
11 rage, especially since the anger management deficient dude
12 behind you may have a shotgun riding shotgun. Given a mere
13 mile and one-half to pass or be pulled over, some felt the
14 sanctions on improperly using the angry avenue veered over the
15 line. After a shaky test drive in 2016 when the BIR was lost
16 54 to 43, this year Captain Phil decided to call off the chase
17 and carried over the procedural speed check. Our advice to
18 those in a hurry, count to ten, then consider buying a
19 helicopter. For now, life in the fast lane remains unchanged.

20 House Bill 300 providing for term limits for members
21 of the Legislature and House Bill 544 providing for recall of
22 state-wide elected officials by Representative Ainsworth. The
23 Gentleman from Blount, DeKalb, and Marshall may be first on
24 the roll call, but we wonder if he is first in the hearts of
25 his colleagues. If this is the way to win friends and
26 influence people, he will only need a table for one at local
27 eateries. Actually, the term limits bill had 27 co-sponsors

1 and the recall bill had 36 co-sponsors. With those kind of
2 numbers, there must be a lot of home folks looking to drain
3 the swamp and cull the herd on Goat Hill. Languishing in the
4 Constitution, Campaigns, and Elections Committee all session,
5 open season on career politicians has yet to begin. But Swamp
6 Critters and Old Goats better watch their backs. The Huntsman
7 from Dream Ranch has you in his scope and he AIMS to please;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, having disposed of the also rans, it is now
10 time to disclose the deadest bill of 2017. Allow us to begin
11 with poetry that won't soothe your soul:

12 It's been 25 years since the last levy and our
13 byways are returning to the jungle;

14 Roads are thin and bridges are beginning to crumble;

15 When out of the crowd came a brave sponsor who was
16 ready to rumble;

17 Well respected and highly regarded, he was way too
18 humble;

19 But like those before, when it comes to taxes he
20 quickly stumbled;

21 With coaches and fans cheering him on, the player
22 from the Capstone made it to the goal line, but then the ball
23 was fumbled;

24 There was little left to say and even less to
25 mumble;

1 It was a nice effort and he gave it his all, but
2 future hopes for infrastructure improvements took one giant
3 tumble.

4 No spoiler alert is needed. The winner of the 2017
5 Shroud Award is House Bill 487 levying additional gasoline
6 taxes. Mr. Chairman, you'd better get your windshield cleaned,
7 because you obviously didn't see this wreck coming. Perhaps
8 you need to move your chair behind Wanda's desk. They say you
9 can hear everything from there. For over two years the high
10 octane powers of this chamber were McCutcheoning this jalopy
11 all over the state; but sadly for them, it never got in gear
12 and no one wanted to hop on board. Most chose to decline the
13 pay-at-the-pump option. Running on empty, the primary
14 proponent just couldn't get members to join him in the deep
15 end of the POOLE. If a D.C. bailout comes, some wonder if we
16 will be left stranded on the side of the on-ramp. This attempt
17 to find a match went unlit. Clearly, the motives of the
18 gentleman from T-Town were to move the state forward. But here
19 in Alabama, the road to Hades remains UNPAVED with good
20 intentions. On April 13, realizing he lacked support for the
21 BIR, the sponsor kindly carried this path to progress over. We
22 suspect that day will be remembered as April Fuels Day. For
23 once, the education wizard was taken to school by his
24 opponents. Let's hope his bus doesn't have to travel over any
25 bridges; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
27 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the winner of the 2017 Shroud

1 Award is House Bill 487 levying additional taxes on gasoline.
2 Representative Bill Poole is requested to cautiously avoid the
3 potholes and motor forward to accept the symbolic shroud for
4 the deadest bill of the year.