

1 HR16
2 204146-1
3 By Representative Wheeler
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 04-FEB-20

MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. DENNIS (DAN) L. IRELAND.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death of Dr. Dennis (Dan) L. Ireland on December 24, 2019, at the age of 89 years; and

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Ireland was born the third of five children to James Floyd and Willie Lee Ashworth Ireland on March 17, 1930, in Birmingham, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Ensley High School, he attended and graduated from Howard College (Samford University) and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, he also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Samford University; and

WHEREAS, having grown up in a Christian home and faithful in church attendance, Dr. Ireland accepted Christ as his personal Savior in July 1939, at Pratt City Baptist Church where he was baptized; he was ordained to the Gospel Ministry

1 in August 1949 at his home church, Pike Avenue Baptist Church,
2 in Birmingham; and

3 WHEREAS, during his many years of ministry, he
4 served as pastor of numerous churches including Jackson
5 Memorial Baptist Church in Chambers County, which was his
6 first pastorate and the church's first pastor; Dolomite
7 Baptist Church in Bessemer; Eastside Baptist Church in
8 Birmingham; First Baptist Church in Fort Payne; Jackson Way
9 Baptist Church in Huntsville; he also served as interim pastor
10 of Westmont Baptist Church in Birmingham; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Ireland also served as Executive
12 Director of the Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP); among
13 the many places of leadership in Alabama, he served as
14 Chairman of the Board of Missions and President of the Alabama
15 Baptist State Convention; he also led in the establishment of
16 an "AA" group in Fort Payne and helped to establish a Gideon
17 Camp in that area; he was one of the founding members of the
18 CEO Fellowship House in Gadsden for alcohol rehabilitation;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, he served on the national level through the
21 Southern Baptist Convention and the American Council on
22 Alcohol Problems (ACAP), serving as President of ACAP'S Board
23 of Directors; as a part of this role, he had the privilege of
24 meeting with the President of the United States in the White
25 House; he served on the Governor's Task Force to study the
26 drinking and driving problem in Alabama; he was a spiritual

1 leader in the Alabama Legislature through the ministry of
2 ALCAP; and

3 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents;
4 brothers, Ralph Larry Ireland and Jerry Ray Ireland; and
5 sister, Gloria June Ireland Storey; his survivors include his
6 beloved wife of 68 years, Pauline Elizabeth Tucker Ireland;
7 sister, Myra Gail Ireland O'Quinn; daughter, Denise Ireland
8 Cypress (Fred); son, Jeffrey Ireland (Barbara); grandchildren,
9 Daniel Ireland, Michael Ireland, Kathryn Ireland and David
10 Cypress; five great-grandchildren, Sarah Ireland, Amelie
11 Ireland, Mattias Ireland, Iris Ireland and Aurelia Ireland;
12 and a host of other relatives and many friends; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Ireland was a diligent servant for the
14 cause of righteousness and the good for all people of Alabama;
15 although his presence will be greatly missed, the memory of
16 him will be cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved
17 him; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
19 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Dr. Dennis (Dan)
20 L. Ireland is recorded with deep sadness and this resolution
21 is offered in highest tribute, along with heartfelt sympathy
22 to his family, whose grief is shared by many.