

1 SJR115
2 213747-1
3 By Senators Allen, Singleton, Reed, Albritton, Barfoot,
4 Beasley, Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn,
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Holley, Jones,
6 Livingston, Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts,
7 Sanders-Fortier, Scofield, Sessions, Shelnut, Smitherman,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 27-APR-21

HONORING JUDGE JOHN H. ENGLAND, JR. FOR PROFESSIONAL
ACHIEVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, it is a privilege to highly honor
Tuscaloosa County Circuit Court Judge John H. England, Jr. for
serving on the judicial bench for 28 dedicated years; and

WHEREAS, Judge England was born in Uniontown,
Alabama; and

WHEREAS, while attending Tuskegee University, the
Civil Rights Movement inspired Judge England to pursue a
career in law; in 1969, he graduated with a Bachelor of
Science Degree in Chemistry; thereafter, he attended The
University of Alabama Law School but was only able to complete
one year before being drafted into the United States Army
during the Vietnam War, where he served as a Military
Policeman for two years; after his service, he returned to The
University of Alabama Law School, where he earned his Law
Degree in 1974; after graduation, he worked as an attorney,
and in 1985, along with former State Senator Charles Steele,
was one of two of the first African Americans elected to the

1 Tuscaloosa City Council, where he served two terms, chairing
2 the Finance and Community Development Committees; Judge
3 England was appointed to the Tuscaloosa County Circuit Court
4 in 1993 and was elected to a full term the following year; in
5 1999, he received an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from
6 Tuskegee University; that same year, he was appointed by the
7 Governor to the Alabama Supreme Court, where he served until
8 2001; he then returned to the Circuit Court of Tuscaloosa
9 County in 2001; and

10 WHEREAS, some of Judge England's additional
11 incredible achievements over the years include being the first
12 African American University of Alabama Law School graduate to
13 witness his three children, John H. England, III, U.S.
14 Magistrate Judge for the Northern District in Alabama; April
15 England Albright, Civil Rights Attorney in Atlanta, Georgia;
16 and Christopher England, Assistant City Attorney in
17 Tuscaloosa, member of the Alabama House of Representatives,
18 and Chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party, also graduate
19 from The University of Alabama Law School; serving on the
20 Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama; being the
21 first African American to have a dormitory on The University
22 of Alabama's campus named after him, John H. England, Jr.
23 Hall, on February 8, 2019, where The University of Alabama
24 President Stuart R. Bell stated, "It is a privilege to
25 announce the naming of our newest freshman residence hall in
26 tribute to the Honorable Judge John England, Jr., whose life
27 of influence has made a lasting impact on this community, The

1 University of Alabama, and citizens of the entire state. Judge
2 England serves as a wonderful example to others, and his
3 insights, experience, and untiring compassion for UA students,
4 faculty, staff, and the citizens of Alabama reflect the
5 mission of the UA System to impact others through excellence
6 in teaching, research, and service"; being inducted into the
7 Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame in 2006; serving as State
8 President of Alabama New South Coalition; serving on the Board
9 of Directors of various organizations, including Boys and
10 Girls Clubs, Barnes Branch YMCA, Community Services Program of
11 West Alabama, Theatre Tuscaloosa, and many others; and serving
12 as a Trustee and as a member of the male chorus at his church,
13 Bailey Tabernacle, C.M.E. Church; and

14 WHEREAS, Judge England has stated, "I have come to
15 value that you can learn something from any person, if you are
16 listening. Many people who came before my court have later
17 attested, 'I was heard', including some individuals I had
18 ruled against"; and

19 WHEREAS, Judge England has seven grandchildren, Ty,
20 Jay, Jelani, Autumn, Alexandria, Kennedi, and Christopher,
21 Jr.; and

22 WHEREAS, for nearly three decades, Judge England has
23 served diligently, bringing justice into many people's lives;
24 a remarkable man, he is indeed an inspiration and a natural
25 leader; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Tuscaloosa County Circuit

1 Judge John H. England, Jr. is warmly honored and commended for
2 his 28 years of committed service, and this resolution hereby
3 serves as a tribute to him with utmost gratitude and
4 admiration, along with sincere best wishes for continued
5 success and happiness during his retirement.