

1 SJR50  
2 210470-2  
3 By Senator Allen  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 03-MAR-21

1 SJR50

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4 ENROLLED, SJR50,

5 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. DONALD J. SALLS.

6  
7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
8 death of Dr. Donald J. Salls of Fairhope, Alabama, on January  
9 2, 2021, at the age of 101 years; he was the oldest living  
10 University of Alabama football letterman; his passing leaves a  
11 void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the  
12 entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Salls was a native of White Plains, New  
14 York; he was awarded a scholarship to The University of  
15 Alabama in 1938; he played his first game as a sophomore in  
16 1940 and quickly returned an interception for a 76-yard  
17 touchdown; he lettered at fullback and linebacker in 1941 and  
18 1942, scoring eight touchdowns, including the only touchdown  
19 in a 9-2 victory over Tennessee in 1942; he helped the Crimson  
20 Tide to a 29-21 win in the January 1, 1942, Cotton Bowl and a  
21 37-21 victory over Boston College in the January 1, 1943,  
22 Orange Bowl; and

23 WHEREAS, following the Orange Bowl game, he joined  
24 the U.S. Army and bravely served his country during World War  
25 II; he was wounded in France on September 19, 1944; he was

1 awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster,  
2 the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three  
3 battle stars, as well as numerous other medals; he was  
4 promoted to captain and was honorably discharged in 1945; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Salls returned to The University of  
6 Alabama in 1945 and earned his Master's degree in 1946; he was  
7 hired as head football coach at Jacksonville State University,  
8 where he coached for 19 years and posted a 95-57-11 record;  
9 during his tenure, JSU won seven conference championships and  
10 played in four bowl games; following his retirement from  
11 football, he earned a doctorate degree from New York  
12 University and became a professor at Jacksonville State  
13 University; he continued teaching for 18 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Jacksonville State University awarded him  
15 the title of Professor Emeritus and named a building, Salls  
16 Hall, in his honor in 1969; he was inducted into the Alabama  
17 Sports Hall of Fame, the Westchester County New York Hall of  
18 Fame, the Football Foundation Hall of Fame, the Calhoun County  
19 Sports Hall of Fame, and the Jacksonville State University  
20 Athletic Hall of Fame; he was awarded The University of  
21 Alabama National Alumni Association's Paul W. Bryant Alumni  
22 Athlete Award in 2003 and received the Johnny Vaught Lifetime  
23 Achievement Award from the All-American Football Foundation  
24 Hall of Fame; and

1           WHEREAS, in 1962, he pioneered a national program of  
2 isometric exercises known as XSEXIM (Ten Static Exercises in  
3 One Minute) which was widely adopted; in 1995, he authored a  
4 book entitled, "Live and Love to Be 100" which promoted  
5 attitude, vitamins, and exercise as the way to a better and  
6 longer life; he was a former long-time resident of Tuscaloosa  
7 and member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish; and

8           WHEREAS, Dr. Salls was predeceased by his parents,  
9 Harry Briggs Salls and Mary Veronica McCormick; and his first  
10 wife, Margaret Ruger Salls; his survivors include his beloved  
11 wife of 33 years, Diane Gainey Gatewood Salls; daughters,  
12 Donna Rankin (Carlton), Trisha Conyers (Eddie), and Cherie  
13 Schmitz (Scott); son, Donald J. Salls, Jr. (Becky),  
14 stepchildren, Tracy Gatewood and Mark Gatewood (Suzy);  
15 grandchildren, Joseph Salls, George Elliot Salls, Adam Salls,  
16 Wright Gatewood, Celia Gatewood, Luke Gatewood, Justin  
17 Williams, Hayden Griess, and Beau Griess; great-grandchildren,  
18 Jackson Williams, Griffin Williams, and Salls Williams; and a  
19 host of other relatives and many friends; although his  
20 presence will be greatly missed, the memories of him will be  
21 cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved him; now  
22 therefore,

23           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Dr. Donald J.  
25 Salls is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is

1        offered in tribute to his life and with heartfelt sympathy to  
2        his family.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR50  
Senate 03-MAR-21  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 11-MAR-21

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By: Senator Allen