

1 HR275  
2 219956-1  
3 By Representatives Drummond, Stringer, Jones (S), Bracy,  
4 Gaston, Pringle, Wilcox, Clarke and Brown (C)  
5 RFD:  
6 First Read: 06-APR-22

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JIMMY KNIGHT.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on March 31, 2022, of Mr. Jimmy "Jim" Knight at the age of 83; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Knight was born on February 21, 1939, in Finchburg, Alabama, to Duncan James Knight, Sr. and Mary Lubirda McCaskill Knight; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from St. Elmo High School in 1959, Mr. Knight attended Grambling College on a four-year athletic scholarship, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree; he later earned a Master of Arts Degree from The University of South Alabama and an Educational Specialist Degree from Alabama State University; and

WHEREAS, a man with a servant's heart, Mr. Knight accomplished numerous achievements throughout his lifetime, including, but not limited to, being the first Driver

1 Education Instructor for the Mobile County Public School  
2 System and becoming the first African American Principal of a  
3 predominately white high school, Theodore High School, where  
4 he became a catalyst for integration and cultural diversity;  
5 due to his tenacity and dedication to excellence in education  
6 and athletics, he became Theodore High School's most respected  
7 and admired principal in the school's history, and later that  
8 same year, he began serving as the Assistant Superintendent of  
9 Student Services for the Mobile County Public School System;  
10 in 1995, he retired from the Mobile County Public School  
11 System and became the fifth Executive Director appointed at  
12 Mobile Community Action, Inc., where he, through his  
13 exceptional leadership skills, dedication, and perseverance,  
14 reconstructed the entire agency and developed a highly  
15 effective organization; he retired in 2013, and in recognition  
16 of his dedication and commitment to Mobile Community Action,  
17 Inc., the West Mobile Head Start Center was named the Jimmy  
18 Knight Head Start Center on September 21, 2013; and

19 WHEREAS, some of Mr. Knight's other achievements  
20 included serving on the Board of Directors for Mobile Works,  
21 the Senior Bowl Committee, the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, and  
22 the American Red Cross; being named the Tillman's Corner  
23 Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year in 1987; being  
24 honored with a photographic collage by the Black History  
25 Heritage Museum at Bishop State Community College; and being  
26 the recipient of the City of Prichard's Sports and Leadership  
27 Hall of Fame Award in 2010; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Knight was a faithful and dedicated  
2 member of Ebenezer Baptist Church of Cottage Hill, where he  
3 served as a Deacon, an Adult Male Sunday School Teacher, and a  
4 member of the Male Chorus; he also orchestrated the Ebenezer  
5 Baptist Church Annual Blood Drive; and

6           WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents;  
7 daughter, Jessica Alice Knight; and siblings, Pedro Knight,  
8 Mary Frances Thompson, Dr. Thomas "Ted" Knight, Sullivan  
9 Knight, Louis Knight, and Alvin Knight; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Knight is survived by his wife of 55  
11 years, Johnnie Mae Knight; daughter, Jimese Knight Britt  
12 (Tobias); son, Reverend Byron Daniel (Laura); brothers, John  
13 Knight (Elouise), Duncan Knight (Saundra), Rudolph Knight, and  
14 Gene Knight (Gloria); sisters, Leverne Daniels and Deborah  
15 Dorsey (William); sister-in-law, Juanita Knight;  
16 brothers-in-law, Clay H. Bryant and Issac Johnson;  
17 grandchildren, Nashia, Jeromee, Byron II, Joshua, and Jacoby;  
18 nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews; and a host of  
19 other relatives and friends; and

20           WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
21 missed, the memory of Mr. Knight will be cherished in the  
22 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

23           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
24 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. Jimmy "Jim"  
25 Knight is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is  
26 offered in tribute to his life, along with heartfelt sympathy  
27 to his family, whose grief is shared by many.

