

1 SJR4  
2 215171-2  
3 By Senators Waggoner, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley,  
4 Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott,  
5 Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Holley, Jones, Livingston,  
6 Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed, Roberts,  
7 Sanders-Fortier, Scofield, Sessions, Shelnuttt, Singleton,  
8 Smitherman, Stutts, Weaver, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 11-JAN-22

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8 CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE PASSING OF  
9 FORMER ALABAMA CONGRESSMAN HERBERT LEON "SONNY" CALLAHAN, JR.  
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11 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
12 death of former Alabama Congressman Herbert Leon "Sonny"  
13 Callahan, Jr. of Mobile, Alabama, on June 24, 2021, at the age  
14 of 88; his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving  
15 family, many friends, and the entire community and state,  
16 where he was highly regarded; and

17 WHEREAS, a native and lifelong resident of Mobile,  
18 Alabama, Congressman Callahan was born on September 11, 1932,  
19 to Herbert Leon Callahan and Fan Callahan; he was born into a  
20 large Irish Catholic family, having eight brothers and  
21 sisters; he graduated from McGill Institute in 1950 and  
22 attended the University of South Alabama before serving in the  
23 United States Navy; upon returning to Mobile, Congressman  
24 Callahan began a successful career in the trucking and  
25 warehouse business; he was elected to the Alabama House of  
26 Representatives in 1971 where he served until he was elected  
27 to the Alabama State Senate in 1979; in 1984, Congressman

1 Callahan was elected to the United States House of  
2 Representatives where he faithfully served Alabama's First  
3 Congressional District for 18 years before retiring in 2003;  
4 in the United States Congress, he served as Chairman of two  
5 Appropriations Subcommittees, Foreign Operations and Energy  
6 and Water; upon retiring from Congress, he continued to work  
7 in Washington, D.C., for 17 years after founding a lobbying  
8 firm, Sonny Callahan and Associates; and

9 WHEREAS, he was one of south Alabama's most beloved  
10 and accessible public servants; his commonsense approach to  
11 resolving issues and his uncanny ability to know which battles  
12 where worth the fight served him well in his political roles;  
13 one of his most endearing qualities was to lighten a tense  
14 situation with humor and to tackle controversial issues with  
15 simplicity, grace, and humility; Congressman Callahan was  
16 popular on both sides of the political aisle and had a unique  
17 ability to relate to people from all walks of life; and

18 WHEREAS, Congressman Callahan was preceded in death  
19 by his parents; son, Cameron R. Callahan; brothers, Charles  
20 Callahan and Terry Callahan; and sisters, Mary Jane Emmick,  
21 Rosie Smitherman, Margaret Ann Athey, and Patsy Dunnavant; and

22 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of 52 years,  
23 Karen Reed Callahan; children, H. Scott Callahan (Jacqui),  
24 Patrick M. Callahan, Shawn M. Cushing (Dan), Christopher A.  
25 Callahan (Amanda), and Kelly L. Thomas (Mark); brother, George  
26 Callahan; sister, Sissy Martin; numerous grandchildren; and a  
27 host of other relatives and many friends; and

1           WHEREAS, Congressman Callahan was a dedicated public  
2           servant whose contributions were far-reaching and innumerable;  
3           although his presence will be missed, his legacy will endure,  
4           and his memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of  
5           all who were privileged to know him during his lifetime; now  
6           therefore,

7           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
8           HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of former Alabama  
9           Congressman Herbert Leon "Sonny" Callahan, Jr. is recorded  
10          with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute  
11          to his life and with heartfelt sympathy to his family.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR4  
Senate 11-JAN-22  
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: 10-FEB-22

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By: Senator Waggoner