

# HJR228 INTRODUCED



1 GURUC2-1  
2 By Representative Mooney  
3 RFD: RULES  
4 First Read: 23-May-23  
5 2023 Regular Session



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HJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PASTOR DR. HARRY L. REEDER  
III.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
untimely death of Pastor Dr. Harry L. Reeder III at the age  
of 75 on May 18, 2023; 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, Pastor Dr. Reeder was the beloved Senior  
Pastor of Briarwood Presbyterian Church for 24 years; he  
received a call from the Lord to serve in the capacity in  
September 1999; during his distinguished pastorship, he  
brought more than 4,000 church members together in  
fellowship and worship as he passionately shared the Word of  
God, encouraged others, and blessed lives; and

WHEREAS, after being united in holy matrimony with  
Cindy, in 1969, Pastor Dr. Reeder selflessly withdrew from  
East Carolina University (ECU) in order to allow his wife to  
finish her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Chemistry at The  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte; that same year,  
he was called by the Gospel of Grace in Jesus Christ to a  
personal relationship with the risen Savior; following his  
wife's college graduation, Pastor Dr. Reeder returned to  
ECU, however, after responding to God's call in his life to



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29 the Gospel ministry, he left ECU and finished his  
30 undergraduate work at Covenant College, where he graduated  
31 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Bible in 1974;  
32 he then attended Tennessee Temple Seminary part-time while  
33 serving an Independent Bible Church as a student pastor;  
34 due to growing convictions in certain areas of theology and  
35 ecclesiology, he resigned his charge in Chattanooga and went  
36 into a Pastorate of the Presbyterian Church in America in  
37 Miami, Florida, at Pinelands Presbyterian Church, while  
38 completing a Master of Divinity Degree with Westminster  
39 Seminary through the Florida Theological Center; during his  
40 three-year pastorate, Pinelands Presbyterian Church enjoyed  
41 the blessing of God's sovereign grace and grew from an  
42 attendance of 50 to 400; and

43 WHEREAS, in February 1983, Pastor Dr. Reeder was  
44 called to Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church as its  
45 founding Pastor; the ministry began with 38 committed  
46 members and in 17 years, attendance grew to over 3,000  
47 during the Lord's Day morning worship services and a number  
48 of daughter churches being planted; the Lord also brought  
49 into existence a growing Bible teaching radio ministry, "In  
50 Perspective", and Pastor Dr. Reeder had a 10-minute daily  
51 radio/podcast program, "Today in Perspective", as well as a  
52 five-minute devotional, "Fresh Bread"; additionally, he was  
53 the author of numerous published works, such as "The  
54 Leadership Dynamic" and "From Embers to a Flame - How God  
55 Can Revitalize Your Church" with Presbyterian and Reformed  
56 Publishing Company; he contributed a chapter in the book,



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57 "John Calvin: A Heart for Devotion, Doctrine, and Doxology"  
58 on the life of John Calvin as a preacher for Ligonier  
59 Ministries to honor his 50th birthday; and he contributed a  
60 chapter, "Isis in the USA", in the "Statism II" book by  
61 Fortress Books; and

62 WHEREAS, Pastor Dr. Reeder was devoted to the  
63 ministry of Church Revitalization, hosting multiple Embers  
64 to a Flame Conferences both nationally and internationally  
65 each year; he completed his doctoral dissertation on The  
66 Biblical Paradigm of Church Revitalization and received his  
67 Doctor of Ministry Degree from Reformed Theological Seminary  
68 in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he served as adjunct  
69 faculty member while holding the same status at Birmingham  
70 Theological Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama, and at  
71 Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he  
72 served on the Board of Trustees; and

73 WHEREAS, Pastor Dr. Reeder is survived by his wife;  
74 children, Jennifer Hay (Philip), Harry Reeder IV (Angie),  
75 and Abigail Leib (Ryan); and grandchildren, Brianna Toomer,  
76 C.J. Toomer, Mack Toomer, Matthias Leib, Taylor Leib,  
77 Mitchell Elizabeth Leib, Virginia Turpin, Winn Turpin, Anna  
78 Grace Hay, and Kathryn Barrett Hay; and

79 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
80 missed, the memory of Pastor Dr. Reeder will be cherished in  
81 the hearts of all who knew and loved him; the beautiful  
82 legacy that he created will surely continue; now therefore,

83 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
84 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Pastor Dr.



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85 Harry L. Reeder III is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
86 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with  
87 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by  
88 many.