

HR129 INTRODUCED



1 1XEO3Z-1
2 By Representative Fidler
3 RFD:
4 First Read: 27-Apr-23
5
6 2023 Regular Session



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HR_____ HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER
REPRESENTATIVE, WALTER E. PENRY, JR.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness and respect that we recognize Baldwin County native and former Representative, Walter E. Penry, Jr., who passed away on March 30, 2023, after a long life in public service that included six terms in the Alabama Legislature representing the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay and South Baldwin County, as well as decades of civic and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Penry was born in 1930 and grew up in Baldwin County, graduating from Fairhope High School in 1949 and going on to serve two tours of duty as a Corporal in the United States Army and attaining the rank of Master Sergeant in the Foley Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, he worked for the Gulf, Mobile, and Ohio Railroad, which later became the Illinois Central Railroad, for over four decades; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Penry was highly active and involved in his community and the South Alabama region, serving as a board member for The University of South Alabama Foundation for more than 30 years, serving Civitan International, and



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26 serving as Founder and longtime President of the Belforest
27 Water System, where he helped bring water system service to
28 rural portions of Baldwin County that had only had well
29 water previously; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Penry began his first term in the
31 Alabama House of Representatives in 1979 and created a
32 legacy of active service and advocacy for his district and
33 region that included creating legislation that established
34 Blakeley State Park and allowed citizens to vote on the
35 expansion of nearby municipal limits, and he fought to make
36 sure that Baldwin County and Mobile County were able to keep
37 a larger portion of oil and gas revenue generated from their
38 area, as well as statewide legislation that protected
39 medical workers doing pro-bono work by providing liability
40 insurance for them through the State of Alabama; and

41 WHEREAS, Mr. Penry is survived by his wife of 70
42 years, Jane Mathews Penry; daughter, Dr. S. Elizabeth Penry;
43 sons, Walter E. Penry III, Charles D. Penry (Lane), and John
44 W. Penry (Beth Dietz); and grandchildren, Evan Penry,
45 William Penry, Grace Penry, Aiden Penry, Sarah Penry, and
46 Kate Penry; and

47 WHEREAS, Mr. Penry served for six terms in the
48 Alabama House of Representatives with distinction and honor
49 until his departure in 2003 and was named Conservation
50 Legislator of the Year in 1995 by the Alabama Wildlife



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51 Foundation; now therefore,

52 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
53 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we respectfully honor the
54 service, sacrifice, and legacy of the late former
55 Representative, Walter E. Penry, Jr., and by copy of this
56 resolution prepared in tribute, we commend his memory to the
57 citizens of Alabama.