

HJR208 INTRODUCED



1 HJR208
2 UF92XDX-1
3 By Representative Smith
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 18-Apr-24



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

HJR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF WARREN LEE HELMS.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on April 8, 2024, of United States Air Force Veteran and former Alabama Emergency Management Agency Director Warren Lee Helms of Montgomery, Alabama, at the age of 68; his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Lee Helms was born on August 29, 1955, to Virginia Nell Benton Helms and David Bennett Helms; he graduated from Jefferson Davis High School in 1973, where he excelled in football and track; and

WHEREAS, he served with honor and distinction for six years in the U.S. Air Force from 1973-1979, and his fondest memories were from serving in Germany; and

WHEREAS, Lee Helms began his distinguished career of managing Alabama disasters on September 12, 1979, when Hurricane Frederick moved ashore on Dauphin Island as a Category 4 storm and devastated Mobile County and the surrounding areas; he took a temporary position with the Disaster Housing Office and the State of Alabama Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and headed to Mobile; and

WHEREAS, in the following years, he passionately



HJR208 INTRODUCED

29 served the residents of the State of Alabama through
30 emergency management and advanced within the EMA; he was
31 named State EMA Director by Governor Fob James and served
32 during both of his terms; and he continued as State EMA
33 Director under Governor Don Siegelman; and

34 WHEREAS, upon his retirement from the State of
35 Alabama, he opened Lee Helms Associates, LLC, where he
36 assisted cities and counties all over the State of Alabama
37 in developing their own disaster plans, as well as executing
38 mock disasters to test those plans; his company also
39 assisted with cleanup after storms; and

40 WHEREAS, Lee Helms was known in his community as a
41 man of honesty and integrity, and he gave back however and
42 wherever he was needed; he served on the Montgomery City
43 Planning Commission and Jefferson Davis High School PTA; and
44 held leadership roles as President of both the Alabama
45 National Emergency Number Association-911 and the Board of
46 the Humane Society of Chilton County; and

47 WHEREAS, Lee Helms was happiest when spending time
48 with his beloved family; he showed his love to them freely
49 throughout his life; and

50 WHEREAS, Mr. Helms is preceded in death by his
51 parents; older brother, Dr. Emory C. Helms; and
52 sister-in-law, Janice Helms; and

53 WHEREAS, he will be lovingly remembered by his three
54 children, Chasey B. Jockisch (Freeman), Cynthia "Cindy" H.
55 Claxton (Richard), and Travis B. Helms (Jessica);
56 grandchildren, Blakeley Barrow, Riley Barrow, Cayden Barrow,



HJR208 INTRODUCED

57 Sammie Jockisch, and Logan Helms; siblings, David B. Helms,
58 Jr., Mellanie H. Bailey (Kenneth), Jonathan "Jody" R. Helms
59 (Julie), Robin W. Helms (Marlena), and Callie H. Folds
60 (Kyle); and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and special
61 friends; and

62 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
63 missed, the memory of Warren Lee Helms will be cherished in
64 the hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

65 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
66 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of United States
67 Air Force Veteran Warren Lee Helms is recorded with deep
68 sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute to his
69 life and with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief
70 is shared by many.