

HR121 INTRODUCED



1 HR121
2 QDVL155-1
3 By Representative Lomax
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 19-Mar-24



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HR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JAMES LEE SPLAWN.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on March 5, 2024, of James Lee "Jim" Splawn, of Huntsville, Alabama, at the age of 90; his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Jim Splawn was born in Upton, Kentucky, to Annie Lancaster Splawn and Grover Willie Splawn; he graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering; and

WHEREAS, as an engineer and manager for NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, in Huntsville, Alabama, from 1961-1984, Jim Splawn served in positions of significance on the Saturn I, Saturn V, Apollo, Skylab, and Space Shuttle Programs; he was co-founder of the concept for stimulating weightlessness of space by working below the surface of water, known as "Neutral Buoyancy Simulation"; he was also responsible for noteworthy contributions to the development of the Space Shuttle Main Engine, the first reusable rocket engine for manned space flight; he retired from NASA in 1984 after 23 remarkable years of excellence; and

WHEREAS, following his NASA career, Jim Splawn was a successful small business entrepreneur, including owner of



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29 SpaceCo Electric; after selling SpaceCo in 1988, he returned
30 to the Aerospace & Defense industry at Boeing for 21 years
31 in the Business Development capacity for evolving space
32 technologies into air and missile defense applications for
33 the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense; and

34 WHEREAS, Jim was involved in many community and civic
35 organizations, including the Rotary Club, Gideons
36 International, Huntsville Solid Waste Authority, Huntsville
37 Aerospace Marketing Association, Marshall Retiree
38 Association, Association of the United States Army, and the
39 Huntsville Board of Zoning Adjustments; he was also an
40 active member of First Baptist Church since 1961; and

41 WHEREAS, Mr. Splawn was blessed to be married to the
42 love of his life, Jo Ann Helton Splawn, for 68 years; he
43 freely admitted that none of his accomplishments would be
44 possible without her love, support, and constant
45 encouragement; and

46 WHEREAS, James Lee Splawn is preceded in death by his
47 parents and brother, Roland Splawn; survivors include his
48 wife; children, Mike Splawn (Kelly), Le-Ann Little (Jeff),
49 and Mark Splawn (Tammy); grandchildren, Samuel Splawn, Julia
50 Splawn, Clair Woodard (Isaac), Lauren Collins (Stephen),
51 JoAnna Feldewerth (Andrew), Rachel Clyburn (James), Ben
52 Splawn (fiancé Hannah Jones), and Hannah Perez (Danny);
53 sisters, Patricia McNatt (Fred) and Sibyl Carmichael
54 (Tommy); as well as eight great-grandchildren and a host of
55 much loved extended family and friends; now therefore,



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56 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
57 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That although his presence will be
58 greatly missed, the memory of James Lee Splawn will be
59 cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved him; his
60 death is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is
61 offered in tribute to his life and service to others, along
62 with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared
63 by many.