

SJR19 INTRODUCED



1 SJR19

2 S6CI758-1

3 By Senators Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell, Butler,
4 Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman, Coleman-Madison,
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones,
6 Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed,
7 Roberts, Sessions, Shelnuttt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

9 RFD: RULES

10 First Read: 21-Feb-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

SJR___ CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM
DUDLEY MELTON.

WHEREAS, it is with heavy hearts that we recognize
the passing of William Dudley Melton of Evergreen, Alabama,
whose departure on October 10, 2023, leaves a legacy of
unwavering commitment to his family, community, and
profession; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton, affectionately known as Billy,
was born in 1943 to loving parents, Thomas Plowden Melton,
Jr. and Eulyne Brantley Melton; he was a descendant of the
earliest pioneer families who settled western Butler and
eastern Wilcox Counties in the community of Friendship,
which later became Pine Apple, Alabama; he was a lifelong
hobby historian and served as Director of the Alabama
Historical Society, as well as a member of the boards of the
Wilcox County Historical Society, the Butler County
Historical and Genealogical Society, the Alabama Heritage
Foundation, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of
Confederate Veterans, the Alabama Genealogical Society, and
First Families of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, as an Evergreen High School student, Class
of 1961, Billy lettered in three sports and was designated
an All-State football player; he was an honor student,
President of his senior class, State President of the



SJR19 INTRODUCED

29 Alabama Beta Clubs, and Lieutenant Governor of Boy's State
30 and Attorney General of Boy's Nation, both of which are
31 programs of The American Legion; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Melton was awarded a football
33 scholarship from Auburn University and played on the 1961
34 freshman team; he was a member of Squires, a men's sophomore
35 honor fraternity, and the Nu Chapter of the Kappa Alpha
36 Order; he was a life member of the Auburn Alumni Association
37 following his graduation in 1964; he entered The University
38 of Alabama School of Law in 1963, where he served as
39 President of the student bar association; he graduated in
40 1966 and was admitted to the Alabama State Bar that same
41 year; he accepted a position in the Office of the Attorney
42 General; and

43 WHEREAS, also in 1966, Billy Melton won the
44 Democratic Primary and was elected to Place 2 of District 34
45 in the Alabama House of Representatives; he served on the
46 House Judiciary and Inter-Governmental Committees; he did
47 not seek re-election and was nominated by the State
48 Democratic Committee to fill a vacancy in the Alabama
49 Senate, District 19, in 1973; he served on the Senate
50 Judiciary and Insurance Committees; and he supported the
51 Judicial Article; after fulfilling his term, he returned to
52 the courtroom, became an AV Bar Register lawyer by 39 years
53 of age, and served as a trial lawyer for nearly 50 years;
54 and

55 WHEREAS, Mr. Melton served on numerous professional
56 and community boards of directors, including leadership



SJR19 INTRODUCED

57 roles as Chairperson, Supreme Court Liaison Committee, and
58 Vice President, Member, and Chairman, Alabama Board of
59 Disciplinary Appeals; he also made an impact through his
60 service to Alabama's judicial system; he served as Bar
61 Commissioner, 35th Judicial Circuit, from 1986-1996, and as
62 a Judge on the Alabama Court of the Judiciary for many
63 years; along with being licensed to practice in the State of
64 Alabama, he was licensed in the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S.
65 Court of Appeals Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, and the Poarch
66 Band of Creek Indians Tribal Court; and

67 WHEREAS, Mr. Melton continued to support the students
68 and faculty of The University of Alabama School of Law
69 throughout his life; he received the 2007 Sam W. Pipes
70 Farrah Law Alumni Society Award; served as Vice Chairman and
71 Chairman of the Farrah Law Society; and served as a member
72 of the Board of Directors, Secretary, Vice President, and
73 President of The University of Alabama School of Law
74 Foundation; and

75 WHEREAS, Billy Melton cherished his family and the
76 Lord above all else; he was a devoted member of the
77 Evergreen Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School and
78 served as a Deacon; he generously gave of his time and
79 talent to co-author and edit "The History of The Evergreen
80 Baptist Church" having already authored "Uninsured Motorist
81 Coverage: A Significant Decision" in The Alabama Lawyer and
82 served on the editorial boards of Alabama Trial Lawyers
83 Journal and The Alabama Lawyer; now therefore,



SJR19 INTRODUCED

84 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
85 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of
86 William Dudley Melton, an extraordinary individual whose
87 life exemplified dedication, integrity, and kindness, and we
88 extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends as
89 they grieve his loss.