

SJR55 ENROLLED



1 SJR55

2 Z8C4KKR-2

3 By Senators Allen, Albritton, 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, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

9 RFD: RULES

10 First Read: 16-Apr-24



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 SJR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RAY
5 STEVEN DEAVOURS, SR.

6

7 WHEREAS, we note with sadness the death of Ray Steven
8 "Coach" Deavours, Sr. of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, on
9 March 4, 2024, and we celebrate his 76 years of life with
10 admiration and thanksgiving; and

11 WHEREAS, Coach Deavours was born on April 29, 1947,
12 the son of Ruby Nell "Sally" Deavours and Buford Ray
13 Deavours; as a member of Berry High School's Class of 1965,
14 he shined on the basketball court and played as a center and
15 a kicker on the competitive Wildcats' football team; the
16 year after graduating high school, he married his
17 sweetheart, Amelia, and remained devoted to her until her
18 sudden death in 1986; and

19 WHEREAS, he graduated from The University of Alabama
20 in 1969 and embarked on his life's work as coach at
21 Northside High School; over 32 years, Coach Deavours coached
22 the Rams to a remarkable 465-340 career record; he was
23 devoted to and loved his students and served as a positive
24 role model for thousands of young people; at times, he even
25 took in youths from troubled homes and gave them the support
26 and direction they needed to thrive; and

27 WHEREAS, Coach Deavours was a thoughtful man who
28 embraced tradition and school spirit; he is credited with



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29 starting the annual Northside High School Christmas
30 basketball tournament that has become a popular and enduring
31 event for the small community; he also started the tradition
32 of feeding Northside football players rattlesnake meat
33 before its rivalry game with his alma mater, Berry High
34 School, hoping to put a little rattlesnake's venom in the
35 players; and

36 WHEREAS, Coach Steve Deavours' love and devotion to
37 the Northside community was well known, and on April 25,
38 2021, the new basketball court at Northside Middle School
39 was named in his honor; and

40 WHEREAS, Coach Deavours was a devout Christian who
41 loved his church, Cleveland Church of Christ; his teams won
42 many games where he encouraged them to play the game the
43 right way, but he always made certain he reinforced the
44 question, "Is your name written in the Book of Life?"; and

45 WHEREAS, Coach Deavours and his family created the
46 "Coach Steve Deavours Scholarship" to benefit a graduating
47 senior at both Northside High School and Berry High School;
48 the scholarships are awarded to students who are following
49 in Coach Deavours' path to become educators in hopes that
50 the financial aid will encourage them in their pursuit to
51 become positive role models for future generations; and

52 WHEREAS, Steve Deavours' greatest joy was his family;
53 he was a devoted husband, a loving father, a patient
54 grandfather, a humble servant of his community, a loyal
55 friend and brother, and a living example of the grace and
56 mercy of Christ; and



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57 WHEREAS, he is preceded in death by his parents;
58 brother, Danny Hershel Deavours (Wanda); and his first wife,
59 Amelia Peterson Deavours; and

60 WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory and continue his
61 legacy are his beloved wife of 21 years, Cheryl Wade
62 Deavours; son, Ray Steven Deavours, Jr. (Kenya); daughter,
63 Lane Deavours Wiggins (Eddy); step-children, Scott Davis,
64 Jr. (Nikki), Cae Davis Allen (Wes), and Brett Davis
65 (Kelley); grandchildren, McKenzie Wiggins Herndon (Matt),
66 Cate Deavours, Davis Allen, Maddie Wiggins, Dee Allen, Tre
67 Davis, Quinn Davis, Liz Davis, Channing Davis, Micah Davis,
68 and Marlowe Davis; great-grandchild, Atlas Blu Herndon; and
69 his brother and best friend, Randy Moore Deavours (Debbie);
70 and

71 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
72 missed, the memory of Steve Deavours will be cherished in
73 the hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

74 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
75 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Ray Steven
76 "Coach" Deavours, Sr. is recorded with deep sadness, and
77 this resolution is offered in tribute to his life and with
78 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
79 many.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Senate 16-Apr-24

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives

Passed: 23-Apr-24

By: Senator Allen