

**SJR55 INTRODUCED**



1 SJR55

2 Z8C4KKR-1

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:

10 First Read: 16-Apr-24



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SJR\_\_\_\_\_ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RAY STEVEN DEAVOURS, SR.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Coach Deavours was a thoughtful man who 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.