

**SJR63 ENROLLED**



1 SJR63  
2 MMZ6WWW-2  
3 By Senators Shelnutt, Roberts  
4 RFD: RULES  
5 First Read: 23-Apr-24



## SJR63 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 SJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING WILLIAM EDWARD COWDEN ON THE OCCASION OF  
5 HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.

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7 WHEREAS, with special pleasure, we offer joyful  
8 felicitations to United States Navy Veteran William Edward  
9 "Ed" Cowden, who is celebrating his milestone 100th  
10 birthday; and

11 WHEREAS, Ed Cowden was born on May 8, 1924, to Harold  
12 and Zettie Cowden in Irvine, Texas, the third of six  
13 children; in 1934, the Cowden family moved to Harold  
14 Cowden's original family homestead near Remlap, Alabama,  
15 where generations of Cowdens had settled since the early  
16 1800s; and

17 WHEREAS, Ed graduated from Blount County High School  
18 in 1942 and began working with his father at Blair  
19 Construction in Birmingham and learned the skills of  
20 carpentry and homebuilding; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1943, during World War II, Ed Cowden  
22 enlisted in the United States Navy; he was assigned to a  
23 Carrier Aircraft Service Unit in Oregon where he served as a  
24 parachute rigger and trained with the 151 Bomb Squadron as a  
25 rear gunner on an SB2C Helldiver bomber aircraft; he  
26 honorably discharged from the Navy in 1945 and returned to  
27 the Cowden Homestead where he resumed work in the  
28 construction industry; and



## SJR63 Enrolled

29           WHEREAS, Ed married his childhood sweetheart, Evelyn  
30 Harrell in 1948, and shortly thereafter he re-enlisted in  
31 the Navy serving at the small Naval installation at the  
32 Birmingham Airport; he was transferred to Jacksonville,  
33 Florida, in 1956, and in 1963 he promoted to the rank of  
34 Senior Chief Petty Officer; also while in Jacksonville, he  
35 and his wife were blessed with two sons, Jeff and Norman;  
36 and

37           WHEREAS, in 1964, Ed Cowden was transferred to  
38 Andrews Air Force Base outside of Washington, D.C., to  
39 assume his new role as Senior Chief Petty Officer; in 1966,  
40 he retired from active duty and moved with his family to  
41 Pinson, Alabama; and

42           WHEREAS, Ed returned to the construction business and  
43 began working with his younger brother, John Cowden; later,  
44 he established the Ed Cowden Construction Company and  
45 manufactured large metal buildings for truck terminals; and

46           WHEREAS, Ed Cowden has been a devout member of the  
47 Palmerdale Methodist Church for over 60 years; in 1976, he  
48 attended the Methodist Conference meetings at Lake  
49 Junaluska, North Carolina, to learn how to manage and lead  
50 foreign mission projects; he became a major leader in  
51 launching global foreign mission projects for the North  
52 Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, which at  
53 that time had over 100 contributing churches in North  
54 Alabama; and

55           WHEREAS, Mr. Cowden, along with Palmerdale Methodist  
56 Church, has lead mission projects to Bolivia, Chile,



## SJR63 Enrolled

57 Nigeria, and Haiti; in 1977, he led a work team to a remote  
58 village in Haiti where they built a church and later founded  
59 a school that is still in operation today; and

60 WHEREAS, as Ed Cowden draws close to his 100th  
61 birthday, he remains very active; he does daily exercises,  
62 rides his bikes, and serves in his church doing various  
63 projects; he has also started a local mission program called  
64 Carpenters for Christ where they build decks for people in  
65 need in the local community; and

66 WHEREAS, Ed Cowden has been blessed to live a long,  
67 full life; he and his wife, Evelyn, were happily married for  
68 68 years until her passing in 2017; together they raised two  
69 sons, and now his family has expanded to include two  
70 daughters-in-law, three granddaughters, one great-grandson,  
71 and two great-granddaughters; and

72 WHEREAS, a 100th Birthday is a significant milestone  
73 that represents a century worth of wisdom earned and  
74 memories gained and is a cause for great rejoicing; it is a  
75 tremendous privilege to recognize a remarkable man such as  
76 Ed Cowden on his special day; now therefore,

77 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
78 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That centenarian, William Edward  
79 Cowden, is highly honored and commended, and this resolution  
80 is offered to him in highest tribute, as well as with  
81 sincere best wishes for continued prosperity and blessings.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR63

Senate 23-Apr-24

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

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives

Passed: 25-Apr-24

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By: Senator Shelnut