

## HJR16 ENROLLED



1 HJR16  
2 7DAA222-2  
3 By Representatives Faulkner, Carns, Mooney  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25



## HJR16 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2  
3 MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES  
4 ARMY VETERAN, FORMER STATE LEGISLATOR, AND FORMER  
5 AMBASSADOR, WILLIAM JELKS CABANISS, JR.  
6

7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
8 death of William Jelks "Bill" Cabaniss, Jr. of Birmingham,  
9 Alabama, on February 2, 2025, at the age of 86; and

10 WHEREAS, his departure leaves a void in the lives of  
11 his loving family, many friends, and the community where he  
12 was highly regarded; and

13 WHEREAS, Bill Cabaniss was born in 1938 in Birmingham  
14 to William Jelks Cabaniss, Sr. and Florence Pierson Sanson  
15 Cabaniss; he graduated from the Lawrenceville School in New  
16 Jersey in 1956 and matriculated to Vanderbilt University,  
17 graduating in 1960; he trained in Vanderbilt's ROTC program  
18 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United  
19 States Army; he served as an Airborne Ranger for three years  
20 of active duty in Germany; and in 1964, he was awarded the  
21 Army Commendation Medal; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1962, Bill Cabaniss married his wife of  
23 58 years, Catherine Hood Caldwell; they shared an  
24 extraordinary life together, beginning in Zweibrucken,  
25 Germany; after Bill's honorable discharge from active duty,  
26 the couple moved to Birmingham to start their family; he  
27 acquired a small metal grinding company that he successfully  
28 built into Precision Grinding, Inc.; and



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29 WHEREAS, concerned about Alabama's relationship to  
30 business, Bill Cabaniss ran for and won a seat in the  
31 Alabama House of Representatives in 1978; in 1982, he was  
32 elected to the Alabama State Senate and served eight years;  
33 he supported many bipartisan bills that most benefited the  
34 citizens of Alabama; his peers voted him one of five  
35 outstanding state senators; and

36 WHEREAS, State Senator Cabaniss attempted a run for  
37 the U.S. Senate and, although he was unsuccessful, he gained  
38 the friendship of President George W. Bush who appointed him  
39 Ambassador to the Czech Republic; he served that post with  
40 distinction from 2004 to 2006, further cementing ties  
41 between the two democracies; he traveled and lectured  
42 throughout Europe on behalf of the United States and the  
43 Czech Republic; he maintained a friendship with President  
44 Vaclav Klaus and upon returning home, he became involved in  
45 several not-for-profit organizations in Prague and New York;  
46 and

47 WHEREAS, he was active in his Birmingham community  
48 and served on the boards of directors for several notable  
49 firms; he chaired the Metropolitan Development Board and the  
50 Board of Junior Achievement of Jefferson County; he was  
51 inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in 2004 and the  
52 Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 2006; he served faithfully  
53 as Senior Warden at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church for many  
54 years; and

55 WHEREAS, he was predeceased by his wife; son, William  
56 Jelks Cabaniss III; and sister, Joan Cabaniss Harrison; he



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57 will be lovingly remembered by his loving fiancée, Linda  
58 Parker Johnson; daughters, Mary Cabaniss Ballard and Frances  
59 Cabaniss Johnson (Kenny); sister, Florence Cabaniss Parnegg;  
60 his beloved grandchildren, Mary Steele Johnson, Bill  
61 Johnson, Kenny Johnson, and twins, Frances Jean and Maria  
62 Nancy Ballard; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended  
63 family, and many friends and former colleagues; and

64 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
65 missed, the memory of Bill Cabaniss will be cherished in the  
66 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

67 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
68 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of William Jelks  
69 Cabaniss, Jr. is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
70 resolution is offered to his family in tribute to his life  
71 and with heartfelt sympathy to his loved ones whose grief is  
72 shared by many.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 13-Feb-25.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

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**25-Feb-25**

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Adopted