

HJR8 INTRODUCED



1 HJR8
2 9YJXPBP-1
3 By Representative Daniels
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25



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HJR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM F. O'CONNOR, JR.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep regret that we record the passing of William F. "Bill" O'Connor, Jr. of Montgomery, Alabama, on September 9, 2024, at the age of 73; his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Bill O'Connor, who was known to many as OC, built a national reputation as an innovative strategist and problem solver with wide-ranging management talents serving both public and private sector clients; his consulting firm, Results LLC, specialized in education, governmental affairs, and public relations issues; Bill led many successful legislative initiatives ranging from economic development to technology, biomedical research, public health, literacy, and other key projects; and

WHEREAS, he advised candidates, officeholders, and business leaders with equal measures of precision and candor; he was known for his unmatched ability to foresee emerging trends before they developed and recommend insightful proactive solutions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Connor was the second President and CEO of the Business Council of Alabama (BCA), a position he



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29 held from 1996 until 2003; during this time, he led the
30 5,000-member trade organization during a period of
31 significant growth; he is remembered for quickly providing
32 strong, stable leadership, and because of his statehouse
33 experience, personal relationships, and effective
34 communication skills, BCA never missed a step in fulfilling
35 and extending its mission as the voice of Alabama business;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, his career experience also includes the
38 Executive Directorship of the Alabama Press Association and
39 service as Director of Public Relations for the Alabama
40 Department of Mental Health; and

41 WHEREAS, with two degrees in Communication from The
42 University of Alabama, Bill O'Connor devoted a sizable
43 portion of his career to his alma mater; administrative
44 positions included tenure as Assistant to the President and
45 later as UA System Vice Chancellor for Governmental
46 Relations; committed to providing high quality instruction
47 to his fortunate students, Bill savored his time in the
48 classroom as Associate Professor of Advertising and Public
49 Relations for the College of Communication and Information
50 Sciences; and

51 WHEREAS, continuing his campus involvement, Bill
52 chaired the Advisory Board for the Blackburn Institute and
53 was inducted into the prestigious Blackburn Society; he
54 served on the College of Communication Board of Visitors for
55 over 20 years and received the College's Dean's Medal in
56 recognition of unsurpassed loyalty and commitment as well as



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57 the Bert Bank Distinguished Service Award and the
58 Outstanding Alumnus in Advertising; he chaired the College's
59 National Advisory Committee for the 2002 UA Capital
60 Campaign; and

61 WHEREAS, in keeping with his proud family tradition,
62 Bill was a dedicated member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity
63 and chaired the Phis' record-setting capital development
64 campaign; and

65 WHEREAS, while he was passionate about many things,
66 above all his greatest passions were being a husband,
67 father, and brother; in addition to his extended family and
68 friends, Bill O'Connor is survived by his beloved wife,
69 Vicki Gray O'Connor; daughter, Anna O'Connor Norris; five
70 siblings, Frances O'Connor Morgan (John), John Talty
71 O'Connor (Carrie), Julia Bradford O'Connor, Michael Brady
72 O'Connor, and Patrick Sheperd O'Connor; and brother-in-law,
73 Dr. Steven Mark Gray (Dana); and

74 WHEREAS, armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued
75 with a commitment to excellence, Bill O'Connor leaves behind
76 a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will
77 remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to
78 have known and loved such an amazing man; now therefore,

79 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
80 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of William F.
81 O'Connor, Jr. is recorded with deep sadness, and this
82 resolution is offered in tribute to his life and service to
83 others, along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose
84 grief is shared by many.