

HR234 INTRODUCED



1 HR234
2 11GEB33-1
3 By Representatives Clarke, Drummond, Jones, Bracy
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 10-Apr-25



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4 HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF WILLIE
5 SHIPMAN, JR.
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7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
8 death of Willie Shipman, Jr. of Mobile, Alabama, on April 2,
9 2025, at the age of 85; his life was defined by unwavering
10 love, dedicated service, and a deep commitment to his
11 family, community, and country; and

12 WHEREAS, born on November 6, 1939, Willie graduated
13 from Central High School in 1958; he went on to serve his
14 country with distinction in the United States Marine Corps
15 for 14 years, both in active duty and reserve, attaining the
16 rank of Sergeant; he was also awarded his Master Gold
17 Airborne Wings; his training included service with the 2nd
18 Battalion, 1st Infantry Reconnaissance Company at Marine
19 Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and he proudly
20 completed the United States Army Airborne School at Fort
21 Benning, Georgia; in recognition of his service, Willie was
22 honored in 2017 as the third member of Mobile's Chapter #33
23 to be wrapped in the Quilt of Valor; and

24 WHEREAS, Willie's dedication extended beyond the
25 military; he earned a Bachelor Degree in Economics and
26 English from Alabama State University, a Master Degree in
27 Driver and Safety Education from Central Missouri State
28 University, and an Associate Degree in Vocational Education



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from Alabama A&M University; he devoted 40 years to education in the Mobile County Public School System, teaching economics, driver's education, and English at W.P. Davidson, Mattie T. Blount, and John L. LeFlore High Schools; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Willie and his beloved wife, Barbara, became local entrepreneurs, purchasing and operating a neighborhood convenience store for 23 years; their business became a community cornerstone, strengthening their ties with neighbors and friends throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, Willie was a life member of the National Montford Point Marine Association, Incorporated, where he served as Sergeant-at-Arms in the local chapter; he was also a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, and served on the Board of Directors of the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation; a man of sincere faith, he was a dedicated member of Little Flower Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Willie's passion for mentorship and community service was evident through his work with the Boy Scouts of America, where he led Troop #234 at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church; he also founded the Kappa League Youth Chapter at John L. LeFlore High School to help young men build leadership skills and become positive contributors to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shipman is preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Shipman; brothers, Richard Nettles, Rudolph "Sonny Boy" Ellies, Ovies Ellies, and Nathaniel Shipman; and



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57 sister, Mamie Goodman; he will be lovingly remembered by his
58 children, William Brentz Shipman and Ashley Acharya; six
59 grandchildren; two great-grandsons; sister, Marguerite
60 Watkins; sister-in-law, Amanda Shipman; his loyal
61 Staffordshire Terrier, Diablo; and a host of nieces,
62 nephews, and loved ones; and

63 WHEREAS, Sergeant Willie Shipman, Jr. will be
64 remembered for his steady charm, his strong will, his
65 thoughtful kindness, and his tough yet caring guidance; his
66 legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the students he
67 taught, and the community he served so dearly; now
68 therefore,

69 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
70 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Willie Shipman,
71 Jr. is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is
72 offered to his family in tribute to his life and with
73 heartfelt sympathy to his loved ones whose grief is shared
74 by many.