

## HR260 INTRODUCED



1     HR260  
2     ZQZ1URK-1  
3     By Representative Sells  
4     RFD:  
5     First Read: 17-Apr-25



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4 HR\_\_\_\_\_ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JAMES  
5 MERLE SASSER COMPTON.  
6

7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
8 death of James Merle Sasser Compton on her 92nd birthday,  
9 April 12, 2025; her departure leaves a void in the lives of  
10 her loving family, many friends, and the community where she  
11 was highly regarded; and

12 WHEREAS, born in 1933 in Brantley, Alabama, and  
13 affectionately known as "Merle," she was the cherished  
14 daughter of the late Andrew Byrd "Fel" and Benonia "Nonie"  
15 Sasser; her remarkable talent for sewing emerged early in  
16 life, inspired by a sewing machine gifted to her from her  
17 Uncle Theron; over the years, Mrs. Merle became an  
18 exceptional seamstress, renown for her exquisite work in  
19 quilting, smocking, embroidery, and appliqué; her creations  
20 are treasured heirlooms, especially the unique Easter  
21 dresses she lovingly made for her daughters and  
22 granddaughters and the cherished Christening gowns sewn for  
23 each of her grandchildren; and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. Merle's culinary skills were equally  
25 admired; despite her full-time job, she effortlessly made  
26 buttermilk biscuits from scratch nearly every morning,  
27 turning the ordinary into something special with ease and  
28 grace; her home was always filled with warmth, good food,



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29 and love, making every gathering special; and

30 WHEREAS, with a gentle touch and an intuitive  
31 understanding of nature, Mrs. Merle transformed barren  
32 spaces into vibrant southern landscapes; her green thumb was  
33 not just a skill, but a gift; in her gardens, flowers  
34 bloomed brighter and leaves unfurled with joy; she was  
35 highlighted in the Spanish Fort Newspaper for her colorful  
36 and enduring backyard sanctuary; and

37 WHEREAS, professionally, Mrs. Compton dedicated over  
38 40 years to Regions Bank, where she was respected for her  
39 diligence and integrity; yet, she often said her proudest  
40 accomplishment was putting all four of her children through  
41 The University of Alabama; a devoted Crimson Tide fan, Mrs.  
42 Merle was the undisputed queen of game day tailgates, where  
43 many came not only for the camaraderie but for a taste of  
44 her homestyle cooking; and

45 WHEREAS, Mrs. Merle Compton was preceded in death by  
46 the love of her life and devoted husband, Samuel Webster  
47 Compton; and her sister, Bonnie Ruth Taylor; she will be  
48 lovingly remembered by her beloved sister, Evelyn Brown;  
49 children, Adaline Compton Fagen (Ralph), Samuel Wade Compton  
50 (Barbara), Teresa Compton Guarcello (Steve), and Leigh  
51 Compton Matthews (Todd); honorary daughter, Scottie Penton  
52 Oliver (Shane); and adored grandchildren, Max Fagen, Jacob  
53 Fagen, Samantha Fender, Thomas Ray Compton, Nicholas  
54 Guarcello, Madison Matthews Barker, MacKenzie Matthews  
55 Harris, and Penton Oliver; and



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56           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
57   LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of James Merle Sasser  
58   Compton is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution  
59   is offered to her family in tribute to her life and with  
60   heartfelt sympathy to her loved ones whose grief is shared  
61   by many.