

## HR335 INTRODUCED



1     HR335  
2     MSZJCWH-1  
3     By Representative Carns  
4     RFD:  
5     First Read: 06-May-25



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4 HR\_\_\_\_\_ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN  
5 HOLLIS HOWELL.  
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7 WHEREAS, we note with sadness the death of John  
8 Hollis "Johnny" Howell of Pinson, Alabama, on April 28,  
9 2025, and we celebrate his 95 years of life with  
10 thanksgiving; his warmth, intellect, and steadfast love for  
11 his family and friends will be deeply missed; and

12 WHEREAS, John Howell was born on September 12, 1929,  
13 in Birmingham, Alabama, and raised by a family who loved  
14 him; he excelled in sports, and following graduation from  
15 Ensley High School, he played football at Auburn University,  
16 Howard College (now Samford University), and Jackson State  
17 University; and

18 WHEREAS, while in college, he met the beautiful  
19 Bettye Burson, who was attending Howard University and would  
20 later become Miss Alabama; they eventually married, and he  
21 remained faithfully devoted to her for 72 years, until her  
22 death in March of 2024; and

23 WHEREAS, following college graduation, Johnny Howell  
24 became an educator, coach, and principal; over the next 30  
25 years he worked tirelessly, and he made a significant and  
26 tangible impact on thousands of students and their families  
27 in the greater Birmingham area; he served as head coach at  
28 Woodlawn High School, as principal at Banks High School, as



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the first principal of Vestavia Hills High School, and finally, as principal at Pinson Valley High School; beloved by all, he was often approached in public by individuals wanting to shake his hand or sit down to talk for a moment, and he always took time for them; and

WHEREAS, Johnny and Bettye Howell retired in the Cumberland Lake community in the Pinson area, just outside of Birmingham; he was happiest when surrounded by his large family and many friends, and he spent many enjoyable hours on the golf course; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Howell lived a life dedicated to improving the well-being of others; he was an active and driving force in charitable work and scholarship efforts for young students; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Howell is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bettye Burson Howell; parents, Edith C. Farmer (William A. Farmer) and Hollis B. "Hank" Howell (Eleanor R. Howell); and brothers, Bill Farmer and Robert Farmer; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his son, Del Howell (Robin); daughter, Hollye Howell; grandchildren, Alison Steineker (Will), Ashley Emmons (Justin), Melissa Paquette, Patrick Howell (Erin), Brady Howell, and Mason Howell; siblings, Fay Farmer and Mike Howell (Trish); 10 wonderful great-grandchildren; and many loving cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Howell's legacy is one of unwavering devotion to the people and the community he cherished; his absence leaves a void that cannot be filled, but his memory



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57 will continue to inspire and bring joy to those who knew  
58 him; now therefore,

59 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
60 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of John Hollis Howell  
61 is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is  
62 offered in tribute to his life and with heartfelt sympathy  
63 to his family, whose grief is shared by many.