

HR343 INTRODUCED



1 HR343
2 QNRME44-1
3 By Representatives Moore (P), Collins, Hill
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 06-May-25



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4 HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH OF JUDGE DAVID JOE BRELAND.
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6 WHEREAS, with an overwhelming sense of loss, we mourn
7 the death, yet celebrate the life, of Judge David Joe
8 Breland of Decatur, Alabama, whose passing on April 30,
9 2025, at the age of 72, has left a void in the lives of his
10 loving family and friends and the entire community, where he
11 was highly regarded; and

12 WHEREAS, born on March 16, 1953, in Decatur, Alabama,
13 to the late Judge Edwin DeWitt Breland, Sr. and Hazel Dykes
14 Breland, Judge Breland embodied a lifelong commitment to
15 faith, family, and public service; and

16 WHEREAS, a 1971 graduate of Decatur High School and a
17 proud alumnus of The University of Alabama, Judge Breland
18 began his legal career by joining his father's law practice
19 before being appointed Morgan County District Judge in 1983
20 by Governor George Wallace, a position he would hold with
21 distinction for 25 years, being re-elected four times
22 without opposition; and

23 WHEREAS, Judge Breland was a visionary in juvenile
24 justice reform, establishing community-based services that
25 became a statewide model that influenced the Alabama
26 Juvenile Justice Act of 2008, while also serving as a
27 trusted advisor and statewide coordinator in juvenile
28 justice initiatives; and



HR343 INTRODUCED

WHEREAS, after retiring from the bench, Judge Breland continued his service as Director of Historic Resources for the City of Decatur, where he oversaw major restoration projects, including the Old State Bank and the Historic Union Depot, preserving Decatur's history and promoting civic pride until his retirement in 2025; and

WHEREAS, his many accolades include the Barrett C. Shelton Sr. Freedom Award, Paul Harris Fellow, Silver Beaver and Whitney Young Awards from the Boy Scouts of America, and induction into the Morgan County Schools Foundation Leadership Hall of Fame, in addition to his service on the Alabama Historical Commission and leadership roles in Rotary Club and Decatur-Morgan Hospital; and

WHEREAS, above all else, Judge Breland was a devout Christian, devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, known for his compassion, wisdom, and quiet strength, leaving behind a legacy of justice, dignity, and leadership that will long be remembered and honored; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Carolyn Lee Breland; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his wife of 45 years, Drama Dorning Breland; son, Will (Brooke); daughter, Mary Katherine (Michael); nephew, Jordan Phillips (Grace); niece, Julia Tichenor (Adam); brother, Edwin DeWitt Breland, Jr. (Virginia); and beloved grandchildren, Grady Phillips, Mira Breland, Spencer Breland, James Tichenor, and Mary Stephen Phillips (Stevie); and

WHEREAS, a valued member of the community and loved



HR343 INTRODUCED

57 by many, his service to others and his passion for life will
58 be remembered fondly; we join with others to celebrate his
59 life and to mourn his death; although his presence will be
60 greatly missed, the memory of Judge Breland will be
61 cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved him; now
62 therefore,

63 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
64 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Judge David Joe
65 Breland is recorded with deep sadness, and even as we mourn
66 his death and the loss it represents, we also celebrate his
67 life; this resolution is offered in highest tribute, along
68 with heartfelt sympathy to his entire family, whose grief is
69 shared by many.