

HR363 INTRODUCED



1 HR363
2 U9Q5ADD-1
3 By Representative Carns
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 14-May-25



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4 HR_____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN
5 ANTHONY KARAGAS.
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7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
8 death on May 8, 2025, of John Anthony Karagas of Birmingham,
9 Alabama, at the age of 70; his passing leaves a void in the
10 lives of his loving family, many friends, and the community
11 where he was highly regarded; and

12 WHEREAS, John Karagas was born August 6, 1954, in
13 Gary, Indiana, to Francis and John Karagas, who created a
14 loving home for him and his three brothers: Kerry Karagas,
15 Mark Karagas, and Father Jim Karagas; following high school,
16 he matriculated to the University of Indiana and earned a
17 Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biology; and

18 WHEREAS, he dedicated his career to the restaurant
19 industry, starting at the Omelette Shoppe and progressing
20 through various leadership roles with Steak and Ale, Outback
21 Steakhouse, Panera Bread, and Southern Restaurant Group; and

22 WHEREAS, a passionate cook, John loved preparing and
23 serving meals for those in need, especially Thanksgiving
24 dinners; he enjoyed hosting and cooking family dinners,
25 including Papou's Friday Special, creating cherished
26 memories with his daughters and loved ones; and

27 WHEREAS, John's life was marked by a deep devotion to
28 family and his unwavering faith; he was a lifelong Greek



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Orthodox Christian, and served as an acolyte, embodying his faith through action; he also spent many hours volunteering with the Serve Team at Church of the Highlands, where he generously shared his time and talents to help others; and

WHEREAS, John Karagas is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Leigh Karagas; their four daughters, Alexandria Karagas Bynum (Mac), Stephanie Karagas Koch (Gary), Anna Victoria Karagas-Andrews (Toby), and Olivia Marigo Karagas; sister, Celeste Underwood (Dan); sisters-in-law, Ginger Karagas and Laurie Karagas; and his grandchildren, who affectionately called him "Papou," Emerson Leigh Koch, Grayson Karagas Koch, and Michelle Leigh Karagas-Andrews; and

WHEREAS, John Karagas was a valued member of the community who was loved by many, and his dedicated service to others and passion for life will be remembered fondly; although his presence will be greatly missed, his memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who were fortunate to know him; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of John Anthony Karagas is recorded with deep sadness, and even as we mourn his death and the loss it represents, we also celebrate his life; this resolution is offered in highest tribute, along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many.