

SJR14 INTRODUCED



1 SJR14

2 KX6BU55-1

3 By Senators Allen, Albritton, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell, Butler,

4 Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman, Coleman-Madison,

5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones,

6 Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts,

7 Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts,

8 Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 11-Feb-25



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SJR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ARCHIE L. WADE.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep regret that we record the passing of Dr. Archie L. Wade, on January 13, 2025, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and The University of Alabama, where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade, a Tuscaloosa native, was born in 1939 and attended Stillman College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in 1961; a renowned student-athlete, following graduation he stayed at Stillman College to coach baseball and basketball before going on to play professional baseball and earn his master's degree from West Virginia University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade was a highly-skilled athlete; he was recruited by legendary baseball coach Sparky Anderson as a minor league player, and was a starter in a record-breaking, 29-inning game in 1966; that same year, he led the Class A Florida League with a .338 batting average; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 1964, he, Joffree Whisenton, and Nathaniel Howard were gifted tickets to the Alabama vs. Georgia football game by University President



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29 Frank Rose with the goal of desegregating Denny Stadium;
30 together, the three men accomplished exactly that; and

31 WHEREAS, Dr. Wade spent two years working as a
32 recruiter for legendary Alabama football coach Paul "Bear"
33 Bryant while teaching and working on his doctorate degree at
34 The University of Alabama (UA); during this time, the Tide
35 began recruiting Black players, breaking yet another racial
36 barrier at the Capstone; and

37 WHEREAS, though he had a storied career in athletics,
38 it was his role as a pioneer, a professor, and a mentor that
39 he leaves behind as a cherished legacy; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Wade was selected by then President of
41 the University, Dr. David Matthews, to break the color
42 barrier and become the first African American faculty member
43 on campus when he joined the Department of Kinesiology in
44 1970; this was a key contribution to the College of
45 Education as well as UA as he successfully integrated the
46 professoriate, paving the way for other Black faculty
47 members to join the staff; and

48 WHEREAS, Dr. Wade earned his doctorate from UA in
49 1974, and in 1975, he was one of the founding members of the
50 University's Black Faculty and Staff Association; he
51 continued his career at UA until his retirement in 2000; and

52 WHEREAS, the YMCA inducted Dr. Wade into their Hall
53 of Fame in 2010 for his significant contributions to the
54 institution, beginning with organizing baseball and
55 basketball leagues for Black youths during the late 1950s
56 and early 1960s; and



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57 WHEREAS, in 2013, Dr. Wade was honored by UA with a
58 ceremony and a plaque within the series of celebrations
59 marking the 50th Anniversary of the University's
60 integration; that plaque is located in what is now Wade
61 Hall, named in his honor in 2021, and the home of the
62 Department of Kinesiology; he was also inducted into the
63 College of Education Hall of Fame in 2015; and

64 WHEREAS, he was known as a courageous and resilient
65 man with a gentle, refined, and gracious spirit; the way he
66 spoke to students, the way he dealt with colleagues, and the
67 way he interacted with the public spoke volumes of his love
68 for humanity and attitude of service; now therefore,

69 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
70 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Dr. Archie L.
71 Wade is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is
72 offered in tribute to his life and service to others, along
73 with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared
74 by many.