

SJR35 INTRODUCED



1 SJR35

2 PUTHGEE-1

3 By Senators Givhan, Butler, Waggoner, Bell, Roberts,
4 Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Carnley, Chambliss,
5 Chesteen, Coleman, Coleman-Madison, Elliott, Figures, Gudger,
6 Hatcher, Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson,
7 Orr, Price, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman,
8 Stewart, Stutts, Weaver, Williams

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 05-Mar-25



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SJR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JESSE P. EVANS III.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep regret that we record the passing of Jesse P. Evans III from Birmingham, Alabama, on October 2, 2024, at the age of 73; his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the Alabama legal community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, a talented lawyer, author, professor, woodworker, outdoorsman, and loving father and husband, he was wonderfully blessed with a rich and abundant life; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Evans was an exceptional trial lawyer; a partner at Evans and Evans, LLC, he represented clients in a wide variety of matters, with a focus on real estate, for over 40 years; during his accomplished career, he served as lead counsel in approximately 200 jury trials; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Evans authored five editions of Alabama Property Rights and Remedies and co-authored the recently published Sixth Edition with his son, Price, which is widely considered the leading work on real property law in Alabama and serves as a vital resource for real estate attorneys; furthermore, he served as a member of the Board of Editors of the *Alabama Lawyer*; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Evans was a lawyer's lawyer who was



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29 exceedingly generous with his time and assistance to fellow
30 members of the bar who often consulted with him about
31 complex legal issues; he taught at Birmingham School of Law
32 and The University of Alabama School of Law for decades; and

33 WHEREAS, he was an esteemed member of the Real Estate
34 Study Committee of the Alabama Law Institute that reviews
35 and proposes to the Institute legislation and amendments to
36 existing legislation beneficial to the State of Alabama; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Evans received many awards and accolades
38 throughout his distinguished career, including being named
39 in The Best Lawyers in America® for Real Estate Law, Land
40 Use and Zoning Law, and Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law
41 (since 1995); named by Alabama Super Lawyers to "Alabama Top
42 50" in 2011 and 2012; selected by the Birmingham Bar
43 Foundation as one of its 2015 Class of Fellows; elected by
44 the Birmingham Bar Foundation as a Life Fellow in 2017;
45 awarded membership to the American College of Real Estate
46 Lawyers in 2021; and selected as one of the 2015 Class of
47 Fellows by the American Bar Foundation; and

48 WHEREAS, Jesse Evans had an insatiable and curious
49 mind; his creativity is displayed through numerous
50 woodworking designs and projects, a talent he passed along
51 to his son, Martin; he also loved the outdoors and spent
52 countless days in the woods or on the water, and his sons
53 cherish the lifelong memories they created together; and

54 WHEREAS, while he was passionate about many things,
55 above all he adored his wife Dawn, also a lawyer, with whom
56 he shared many common interests, including traveling,



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57 cooking, politics, and the law; and

58 WHEREAS, Jesse Evans is preceded in death by his
59 father, Jesse Price Evans, Jr.; and father-in-law, Hugh
60 Platt Stith, III; he is survived by his wife, Dawn Stith
61 Evans; sons, Jesse Price Evans IV (Lucy) and Martin
62 Whitfield Evans (Lindsey); grandchildren, Rowland Whitfield
63 Evans, Thomas Shepherd Evans, Mary Clyde Agnes Evans, and
64 Sterling Allen Evans; step-mother, Barbara Morris Evans;
65 mother-in-law, Diane Stith; brothers, Clayton Webb Evans
66 (Angie) and Boyd Haney Evans; and a host of loved extended
67 family members and friends; and

68 WHEREAS, Jesse Evans' *joie de vivre* will shine on
69 through his family's vivid and happy memories, and his
70 insight and strength will continue to serve the countless
71 legal minds he influenced through his generosity of time and
72 self; and

73 WHEREAS, armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued
74 with an inquisitive and practical mind, he leaves behind a
75 legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will
76 remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to
77 have known and loved such an amazing man; now therefore,

78 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
79 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Jesse Price
80 Evans III is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution
81 is offered in tribute to his life and service to others,
82 along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is
83 shared by many.