

SJR90 ENROLLED



1 SJR90

2 G3VM4C2-2

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

9 RFD: Rules

10 First Read: 06-May-25



SJR90 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 SJR____ MOURNING THE DEATH OF JUDGE DAVID JOE BRELAND.

5
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



SJR90 Enrolled

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

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

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

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

49 WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his wife of
50 45 years, Drama Dorning Breland; son, Will (Brooke);
51 daughter, Mary Katherine (Michael); nephew, Jordan Phillips
52 (Grace); niece, Julia Tichenor (Adam); brother, Edwin DeWitt
53 Breland, Jr. (Virginia); and beloved grandchildren, Grady
54 Phillips, Mira Breland, Spencer Breland, James Tichenor, and
55 Mary Stephen Phillips (Stevie); and

56 WHEREAS, a valued member of the community and loved



SJR90 Enrolled

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 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
64 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, 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.



SJR90 Enrolled

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR90

Senate 06-May-25

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and
passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives

Passed: 07-May-25

By: Senator Orr