

# HJR154 INTRODUCED



1 HJR154  
2 BYXMLQ4-1  
3 By Representative Mooney  
4 RFD: Rules  
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HJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE W. BARBER,  
JR.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep respect that we record the passing of George W. Barber, Jr. of Birmingham, Alabama, on February 15, 2026, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinary citizen of this state, George Barber was a lifelong entrepreneur whose keen business acumen and competitive drive were equaled only by his generosity of spirit and steadfast humility; he consistently chose to place others in the spotlight rather than himself, and he will be remembered for his generous spirit and enduring influence on all who were privileged to know him; he leaves behind a world made better by his presence and a legacy that will long endure the passage of time; and

WHEREAS, George Barber was born on September 11, 1940, to George W. Barber and Julia W. Barber; after graduating from Auburn University, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, he enlisted in the Alabama Air National Guard and faithfully served six years with the 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing; and

WHEREAS, his business leadership was rooted in a century of family tradition; born into his family's dairy



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29 enterprise, he began learning the business from the driver's  
30 seat of a milk truck at eight years of age; this early  
31 immersion developed into a comprehensive mastery of the  
32 industry and a deep respect for the employees and customers  
33 who sustained it; and

34 WHEREAS, at the age of 29, he assumed leadership of  
35 the family business and guided its continued growth,  
36 expanding it into a leading dairy provider throughout the  
37 Southeast; under his direction, the company flourished and  
38 strengthened its reputation for quality, integrity, and  
39 community investment; and

40 WHEREAS, George Barber's entrepreneurial vision  
41 extended well beyond the dairy industry; his career included  
42 significant acquisitions, among them the Dairy Queen  
43 franchise rights for Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, as  
44 well as the historic Birmingham Realty Company, successor to  
45 the Elyton Land Company, founder of the City of Birmingham;  
46 today, Barber Companies stands as a robust operating  
47 platform managing a premier portfolio of approximately 300  
48 commercial properties across Alabama, in addition to the  
49 renowned Barber Marina; and

50 WHEREAS, his legendary competitive drive was first  
51 displayed on the racetrack, where he earned 63 victories on  
52 the Southeastern sports car circuit and was widely regarded  
53 as one of the leading drivers of his era; even in victory,  
54 he remained measured and gracious, embodying the quiet  
55 discipline that defined his character; and

56 WHEREAS, motorsports remained a defining passion



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57 throughout his life; after the sale of Barber Dairies in  
58 1998 and the consolidation of his business interests, he  
59 devoted himself more fully to a philanthropic vision  
60 inspired by that passion; what began as a personal interest  
61 evolved into the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, a  
62 nonprofit institution that houses the world's largest  
63 collection of motorcycles and Lotus race cars and stands as  
64 a testament to excellence in preservation, engineering, and  
65 education; and

66 WHEREAS, situated on an 880-acre campus, the  
67 230,000-square-foot museum is an architectural marvel and a  
68 global center for restoration, preservation, design, and  
69 learning, inspiring more than 4,000 students annually and  
70 welcoming visitors from around the world; and

71 WHEREAS, often described as the "Augusta National of  
72 Racing," Barber Motorsports Park was born of his vision to  
73 create "a botanical garden with a racetrack in it," uniting  
74 natural beauty with technical precision; together, the park  
75 and museum represent the largest single philanthropic  
76 project undertaken by an individual in Alabama history and  
77 reflect his desire to create something enduring for the  
78 benefit of others; and

79 WHEREAS, George Barber's impact upon education and  
80 environmental conservation was profound; he funded more than  
81 500 full-tuition college scholarships, opening doors of  
82 opportunity for generations of students; he cultivated a  
83 culture of loyalty and mutual care within his companies and  
84 quietly extended support to employees and friends in times



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85 of hardship, often without public recognition; and

86 WHEREAS, he was a generous benefactor of the Boy  
87 Scouts of America and Discovery Place, now the McWane  
88 Science Center; a dedicated conservationist, he founded the  
89 Birmingham chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association  
90 and was honored as Alabama Conservationist of the Year; his  
91 support helped advance passage of Alabama's Forever Wild  
92 Act, and his long service on the Forever Wild Trust board,  
93 together with his support of the Nature Conservancy,  
94 reflected a lifelong commitment to preserving Alabama's  
95 natural heritage for future generations; and

96 WHEREAS, George Barber was preceded in death by his  
97 parents; sisters, Lynne L. Woehle and Joah L. Hicks; and  
98 brother, Fritz Ludington; he is survived by seven nieces and  
99 a nephew; and

100 WHEREAS, though he never married, his life was  
101 defined by a deep and abiding sense of kinship; he regarded  
102 his employees as family, took a genuine interest in their  
103 lives, and built lasting bonds grounded in respect and  
104 generosity; his closest friends and confidantes formed a  
105 wider family of the heart who will forever cherish his  
106 loyalty, wisdom, and steady presence; now therefore,

107 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
108 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of George W.  
109 Barber, Jr. is recorded with deep sadness and solemn  
110 respect, and we celebrate a life distinguished by  
111 enterprise, vision, integrity, and selfless generosity; this  
112 resolution is offered in highest tribute, together with



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113 heartfelt sympathy to his friends and family, whose loss is  
114 shared across this state.