

HJR4 INTRODUCED



1 HJR4
2 KHBCGUA-1
3 By Representatives Reynolds, Whitt, Paramore, Hill,
4 Standridge, Carns, Mooney, Bolton, Starnes, Stubbs,
5 Blackshear, Bracy, Givens, Lamb, Fidler, Drummond, Holk-Jones,
6 Travis, Lawrence, Daniels, McClammy, Hollis, McCampbell,
7 Tillman, Hendrix, Lovvorn, Ellis, Baker, Shaver, Sellers,
8 Yarbrough, Rafferty, Brown, DuBose, Underwood, Harrison,
9 Stringer, Bedsole, Pettus, Rigsby, Lomax, Moore (P), Hall,
10 Wood (R), Shaw, Myrex, Rehm, Butler, Faulkner
11 RFD:
12 First Read: 13-Jan-26



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4 HJR____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE
5 HONORABLE HOWARD SANDERFORD.

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7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep regret
8 that we record the passing of The Honorable Howard
9 Sanderford on January 7, 2026, at the age of 90; and

10 WHEREAS, an outstanding member of the community,
11 Howard Sanderford selflessly served the state as a military
12 officer, legislator, and public servant; he was known for
13 his commitment to faith, family, and the betterment of his
14 community, and he set a shining example for all who knew
15 him; and

16 WHEREAS, Howard Sanderford was born on October 18,
17 1935, in Meridian, Mississippi; he earned his Bachelor of
18 Science in Accounting from Mississippi State University,
19 where he was active in student government; and

20 WHEREAS, after graduating, he served as an officer in
21 the United States Marine Corps, where he participated in the
22 Beirut, Lebanon, landing of 1958; he was a member of the
23 Marine Corps League, the Military Order of World Wars, the
24 Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion Post 237, and
25 the Military Officers Association of America; and

26 WHEREAS, following his military service, he moved to
27 Alabama and began a business career in the information
28 technology sector, serving as an executive with IBM in

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29 Huntsville until his "first retirement" in 1987; that
30 retirement did not last long, as he soon thereafter founded
31 Computer Leasing Company, Incorporated, of Huntsville, where
32 he served as its president for decades; and

33 WHEREAS, in 1989, Mr. Sanderford won a special
34 election to represent the 20th District in the Alabama House
35 of Representatives, beginning his storied career as a
36 legislator; within the State House, he was known for his
37 tireless dedication to his constituents and endless energy
38 for public service; he was slow to anger, empathetic, and a
39 role model for young legislators; he retired from the
40 Legislature after 33 years in 2022; and

41 WHEREAS, during his esteemed tenure in the
42 Legislature, Mr. Sanderford served in many capacities,
43 including, but certainly not limited to: Chair of the House
44 Boards, Agencies, and Commissions Committee; Cochair of the
45 Joint Legislative Sunset Committee; Chair of the Alabama
46 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement; member of
47 the Alabama Space Authority; executive board member of the
48 Southern Legislative Conference; longtime member of the
49 House Constitution, Campaign, and Elections Committee; and
50 member of the Internal Affairs Committee, the House
51 Technology and Research Committee, and the Madison County
52 Legislation Committee; and

53 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanderford's services to the State of
54 Alabama and its people extends far beyond the titles he held
55 within the State House; he freely dedicated his time to
numerous boards, clubs, and organizations, including as past

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57 President of the Huntsville Rotary Club; past Chair of the
58 Madison County Republican Executive Committee; past Cochair
59 of the Chamber of Commerce Free Enterprise Committee; past
60 Vice President of the Metropolitan YMCA Board; and board
61 member of the Alabama Management Improvement Program and
62 Alabama Men's Hall of Fame; and

63 WHEREAS, as a representative from Huntsville, Mr.
64 Sanderford naturally took an interest in the aerospace
65 industry; he was appointed to the board of the U.S. Space
66 and Rocket Center in 2009, served as an ex officio member of
67 the Rocket Center Education Foundation, and was a board
68 member of the Alabama Commission on Aerospace Sciences; as a
69 legislator, he championed Space Academy for Leading Students
70 in Alabama (SALSA), which provides scholarships for two
71 middle school students in every Alabama legislative district
72 to attend Space Camp each year, and he served as the point
73 man for the annual NASA Day at the State House; he and his
74 wife were also generous supporters of the Rocket Center,
75 donating scholarships for teachers to attend Space Academy
76 for Educators; and

77 WHEREAS, a man of strong faith, Mr. Sanderford was a
78 devoted and active member of First Baptist Church of
79 Huntsville, where he was a former deacon, youth Sunday
80 school teacher, and director; his proudest accomplishment
81 was no doubt the large and beautiful family he reared with
82 his ever-present wife, Dot, who was truly the great woman
83 behind this great man; and

84 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanderford is survived by his loving

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85 wife of many years, Dot; three daughters, Mary Ann, Peggy,
86 and Betty; four grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; a
87 step-great-grandson; and a host of other loving extended
88 family members and friends; and

89 WHEREAS, Howard Sanderford's life was guided by
90 faith, family, service, and a deep love for his community;
91 he will be remembered as a thoughtful and principled leader
92 who was the epitome of a selfless statesman; he leaves
93 behind a world made better by his presence and a legacy
94 which will long endure the passage of time and remain as a
95 comforting memory to his proud and grateful family; now
96 therefore,

97 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
98 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of The Honorable
99 Howard Sanderford is recorded with deep sadness, and this
100 resolution is offered in tribute to his life and service to
101 others, along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose
102 grief is shared by many.