

## HJR4 INTRODUCED



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KHBCGUA-1

By Representatives Reynolds, Whitt, Paramore, Hill,  
Standridge, Carns, Mooney, Bolton, Starnes, Stubbs,  
Blackshear, Bracy, Givens, Lamb, Fidler, Drummond, Holk-Jones,  
Travis, Lawrence, Daniels, McClammy, Hollis, McCampbell,  
Tillman, Hendrix, Lovvorn, Ellis, Baker, Shaver, Sellers,  
Yarbrough, Rafferty, Brown, DuBose, Underwood, Harrison,  
Stringer, Bedsole, Pettus, Rigsby, Lomax, Moore (P), Hall,  
Wood (R), Shaw, Myrex, Rehm, Butler, Faulkner

RFD:

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanderford's services to the State of Alabama and its people extends far beyond the titles he held 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.