

HJR4 ENROLLED



HJR4

KHBCGUA-3

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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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2
3 MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE
4 HOWARD SANDERFORD.

5
6 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep regret
7 that we record the passing of The Honorable Howard
8 Sanderford on January 7, 2026, at the age of 90; and

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, following his military service, he began
26 work with IBM in Jackson, Mississippi, then transferred to
27 work in their corporate headquarters in New York; he then
28 moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where he served as an



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

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

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

54 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanderford's services to the State of
55 Alabama and its people extends far beyond the titles he held
56 within the State House; he freely dedicated his time to



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

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

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



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85 and

86 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanderford is survived by his loving
87 wife of many years, Dot; three daughters, Mary Ann, Peggy,
88 and Betty; four grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; a
89 step-great-grandson; and a host of other loving extended
90 family members and friends; and

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

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



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 13-Jan-26, and was adopted
again as amended by Executive Amendment 22-Jan-26 passed by
the House 27-Jan-26.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate	14-Jan-26	Adopted
Senate	27-Jan-26	Adopted, as amended by Executive Amendment Yeas 30, Nays 0, Abstains 0