

HR165 INTRODUCED



1 HR165
2 HGQK766-1
3 By Representative Baker
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 24-Feb-26



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HR_____ CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE DEATH OF JERRY
MCLAREN KELLY, SR.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sadness that we note the death of Jerry McLaren Kelly, Sr. of Brewton, Alabama, on February 1, 2026, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was born on March 20, 1936, and was a true Brewton man; his education began locally and included a very proud history of playing football and basketball for T.R. Miller High School; he played guard in the 1952 State Basketball Championship in which the team finished undefeated, and he is the only T.R. Miller athlete who was awarded All-State for both basketball and football; Jerry also qualified to try out for the Olympic Trials in diving but was too young to compete; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed his time at The University of Alabama (UA), where he completed a Bachelor of Science in Commerce while remaining an active member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity; Jerry was a founding member of the "Never Should Have Made It Club" at UA and an original member of Tide Pride; and

WHEREAS, he honorably served his country as a United States Army 2nd Lieutenant at Fort Bliss in Lawton, Oklahoma, and as 1st Lieutenant at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, during which he served as a paratrooper with the



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29 101st Airborne Unit and as a marksman; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly was a faithful and devoted
31 Christian; he was an active member of the First Methodist
32 Church of Brewton for over 80 years where he served as usher
33 and on various committees, including being the Chairman of
34 Pastor Parish Relations, Finance Committee, and Church
35 Council; and

36 WHEREAS, he had an expansive banking career that
37 spanned over 65 years, of which he dedicated 58 years to the
38 Bank of Brewton, directly impacting the long legacy of that
39 institution; and

40 WHEREAS, he further served his community as the Chair
41 of the Brewton Chamber of Commerce, Brewton City Schools
42 board member, board member of D.W. McMillan Hospital,
43 Director of the Economic Development Authority, YMCA Board
44 of Directors, member of the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, and
45 Rotary Club, member of the Alabama Bankers' Association,
46 supporter and sponsor of T.R. Miller High School athletics,
47 and advisor and mentor to numerous other civic and
48 charitable campaigns throughout Brewton; and

49 WHEREAS, he loved traveling the world, hunting, The
50 University of Alabama, and spending time on Pensacola Beach
51 with his family; numbers were his love language, and he was
52 tickled to make bets; his dedication to his family, faith
53 and church, career, and to the world of finance was obvious
54 to all who knew him; and

55 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father,
56 Albert Edward Kelly, Sr.; mother, Helen Roberts Kelly;



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57 brother, Albert Edward Kelly, Jr.; and sister, Kandace Kelly
58 McDaniel; he is survived by his loving, devoted wife of 60
59 years, Naomi Frazier Kelly; children, Jerry McLaren Kelly,
60 Jr. (Leigh Jordan), Heather Kelly Picardi (James), and Helen
61 Kelly Sayre (Blake); and grandchildren, Carter Kelly, Tulla
62 Bee Picardi, Lainey Sayre, Jordan Kelly, and Sonny Picardi;
63 now therefore,

64 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
65 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Jerry McLaren
66 Kelly, Sr. is recorded with deep sadness, and this
67 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with
68 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
69 many.