

SJR19 INTRODUCED



1 SJR19
2 YMVPG2N-1
3 By Senators Elliott, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,
4 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,
5 Coleman-Madison, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey,
6 Jones, Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price,
7 Roberts, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams, Woods
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 21-Jan-26



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4 SJR____ HONORING THE LEGACY AND EXCEPTIONAL LIFE OF ANNA
5 SMITH BEDSOLE HOLMES.

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7 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the
8 Legislature of Alabama honor the life of The Honorable Anna
9 "Ann" Smith Bedsole Holmes, a trailblazing public servant,
10 conservationist, philanthropist, and champion for Alabama's
11 children and communities, whose passing on December 1, 2025,
12 marked the loss of one of the state's most influential
13 leaders; and

14 WHEREAS, born in Selma and reared in Jackson,
15 Alabama, Ann Bedsole Holmes was educated at The University
16 of Alabama and the University of Denver; she devoted her
17 life to public service, breaking historic barriers as the
18 first Republican woman elected to the Alabama House of
19 Representatives and the first woman elected to the Alabama
20 Senate; and

21 WHEREAS, during her legislative career, she advanced
22 transformative initiatives, including modernized inheritance
23 rights for widows, the creation of Alabama's 911 emergency
24 system, and major conservation efforts, later serving as
25 founding president of the Alabama Forest Resources Center
26 and preserving thousands of acres of green space across the
27 state; and

28 WHEREAS, her passion for education led to the

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29 founding of the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science in
30 Mobile, the first fully public residential high school of
31 its kind in Alabama, where the library proudly bears her
32 name; it is now recognized as the state's top public high
33 school and is listed among the top 20 public high schools in
34 the nation; and

35 WHEREAS, deeply committed to the City of Mobile, Ann
36 Bedsole Holmes enriched its civic, cultural, and historic
37 life through leadership in historic preservation, the
38 restoration of the Saenger Theatre, the founding of the
39 Alabama Contemporary Arts Center, the creation of
40 transitional housing for homeless women and children through
41 the Sybil Smith Family Village, and service as chair of the
42 Sybil and White Smith Foundation; and

43 WHEREAS, her extraordinary service was recognized
44 through numerous honors, including induction into the
45 Alabama Academy of Honor, Mobilian of the Year,
46 Philanthropist of the Year, and honorary Doctor of Law
47 degrees from multiple Alabama institutions; and

48 WHEREAS, remembered for her steely resolve, sharp
49 wit, mischievous humor, and deep compassion, Ann Bedsole
50 Holmes believed that one person, armed with conviction and
51 courage, can create real, lasting change; now therefore,

52 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
53 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we honor and commemorate the
54 remarkable life and legacy of The Honorable Anna Smith
55 Bedsole Holmes and record her passing with deep respect and
56 gratitude for her lifelong dedication to education, the City



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57 of Mobile, and the State of Alabama.