

## SJR23 INTRODUCED



1 SJR23  
2 PS9T7ER-1  
3 By Senators Carnley, Allen  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 27-Jan-26



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4 SJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE DEATH OF JUNIOR  
5 HAROLD SORRELLS.  
6

7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we mourn the  
8 death, yet celebrate the life, of Junior Harold Sorrells,  
9 whose passing on January 15, 2026, has left a void in the  
10 lives of his loving family, many friends, and the community  
11 where he was deeply respected; and

12 WHEREAS, a devout Christian, devoted family man, and  
13 humble servant to others, Harold Sorrells lived a life  
14 defined by faith, integrity, and quiet generosity; an  
15 accomplished entrepreneur and respected leader in the  
16 trucking industry, he was equally known for his unwavering  
17 commitment to his church, his community, and for helping  
18 others without seeking personal recognition; and

19 WHEREAS, Junior Harold Sorrells was born on May 15,  
20 1937, in Covington County, Alabama, to Abe Madison Sorrells  
21 and Annie Caroline Sorrells; and

22 WHEREAS, after graduating with honors from Opp High  
23 School in 1955, he proudly served in the United States Navy  
24 aboard the U.S.S. *Yorktown*, attaining the rank of Radarman  
25 First Class; in July 1959, after he returned home, he  
26 purchased his first truck, beginning a successful and  
27 enduring career in the trucking industry; and

28 WHEREAS, Harold Sorrells was defined by a strong work



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29 ethic and a deep sense of responsibility; his company, J.H.  
30 Sorrells Trucking, later known as MSJ Trucking, grew into  
31 one of Alabama's most respected privately held trucking  
32 companies; despite opportunities to relocate elsewhere, he  
33 chose to keep the company in Opp, honoring his commitment to  
34 his employees and the community he loved; and

35 WHEREAS, a tireless advocate for the trucking  
36 industry, Harold Sorrells served on the Board of Directors  
37 of the Alabama Trucking Association, including as chairman  
38 from 2004-2005, and was later honored with the Chester Webb  
39 Award, the association's highest lifetime achievement award;  
40 and

41 WHEREAS, his service extended far beyond business; he  
42 served his community on numerous boards and commissions,  
43 including 15 years on the Opp Chamber of Commerce Board of  
44 Directors, including service as president; he was an active  
45 member of the Opp Rotary Club and played a vital role in  
46 advancing local health care through his leadership at Mizell  
47 Memorial Hospital; his influence was also felt through his  
48 church, county economic development efforts, and statewide  
49 service on the Alabama Ethics Commission; in 2014, he was  
50 inducted into the Opp Hall of Fame; and

51 WHEREAS, an ardent supporter of Auburn University and  
52 Auburn Athletics, Harold attended more than 280 consecutive  
53 Auburn football games; though not an Auburn graduate  
54 himself, he embodied the principles of the Auburn Creed and  
55 was proud that all three of his daughters are Auburn  
56 graduates; between his daughters and grandchildren, a total



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of 11 Auburn University degrees have been earned; and

WHEREAS, Harold Sorrells is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Jeanette; daughters, Melissa Ellis (Jerry), Susan Hubbard (Mike), and Julie Moody (Rothel); grandchildren, Drew Mims (Laura), Mallory Dunn, Clayte Hubbard (Maggie), Trey Moody (Ellie), Riley Hubbard, and Caroline Moody; great-grandchildren, Parker Mims, Cooper Mims, and Jackson Mims; sister, Peggy Ann Henderson (Jake); brother-in-law, Marvin McCullough (Lurlene); and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he is preceded in death by his siblings, Ursey Dell Nichols, Chester Smith, Annie Clyde Jones, Betty Sue Griffin, Amos Smith, York Smith, Agnes Ellis, Tots Boland, Bobby Duncan, Bell Odom Johnson, and Carroll Sorrells; and special nephew, Randall Paul Jones; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Harold quietly helped countless individuals and families, offering guidance, encouragement, and support without expectation of praise; his legacy is one of servant leadership, faith in action, and love for others; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Junior Harold Sorrells is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute to his life and with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many.