

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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57 of 11 Auburn University degrees have been earned; and
58 WHEREAS, Harold Sorrells is survived by his beloved
59 wife of 65 years, Jeanette; daughters, Melissa Ellis
60 (Jerry), Susan Hubbard (Mike), and Julie Moody (Rothel);
61 grandchildren, Drew Mims (Laura), Mallory Dunn, Clayte
62 Hubbard (Maggie), Trey Moody (Ellie), Riley Hubbard, and
63 Caroline Moody; great-grandchildren, Parker Mims, Cooper
64 Mims, and Jackson Mims; sister, Peggy Ann Henderson (Jake);
65 brother-in-law, Marvin McCullough (Lurlene); and several
66 nieces and nephews; and

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

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

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