

SJR26 INTRODUCED



1 SJR26

2 I3773W6-1

3 By Senators Allen, Albritton, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell, Butler,
4 Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman, Coleman-Madison,
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones,
6 Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts,
7 Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Weaver, Williams, Woods

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 29-Jan-26



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4 SJR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN
5 DAVID WILLIAMS.
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7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sadness that we note the
8 death of John "Johnny" David Williams of Tuscaloosa,
9 Alabama, on February 4, 2025, at the age of 68; he touched
10 lives in all parts of the state over a career that took him
11 from the high school and collegiate coaching ranks to
12 athletic director to bowl executive; and

13 WHEREAS, Johnny was born on September 1, 1956, to
14 Julia Pearl Fisher Williams and Huey Williams; Johnny spent
15 his entire life involved in sports, a love instilled in him
16 by his brothers at a young age; he was a star player at Holt
17 High School, which earned him a 4-year scholarship at the
18 University of North Alabama (UNA) where he started every
19 game of his college career; at the conclusion of his playing
20 career he became a coach at UNA, thus beginning his
21 profession in coaching at the college level; and

22 WHEREAS, he progressed to Troy University where he
23 dedicated 20 years, first serving as a graduate assistant
24 and later as Defensive Coordinator; for his last 10 years at
25 Troy, he served as Athletic Director, where he received the
26 2002 General Robert Neyland Athletics Director Award from
27 the All-American Football Foundation and in 2016 was
28 inducted into the Troy Sports Hall of Fame; from there,



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Johnny was hired as Senior Associate Athletic Director at The University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, renowned for his sports marketing acumen, Johnny founded Creative Marketing Management; in 2013, Johnny's company was hired by ESPN Events to run postseason Division I bowl games; he created the Raycom College Football All-Star Classic and, the following year, the Camellia Bowl, now the Salute to Veterans Bowl, a traditional college football postseason game played each year in Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, Johnny's charisma and endearing personality never let him meet a stranger; he had a love of sports on a deeper level than most; he understood on a personal level how life changing a sports scholarship could be to a young person; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Betty Williams Webber and Helen Williams Lynch; brothers, Dewey Jo Williams and W. Jack Williams; he is survived by his wife of 44 years, Robin Libby Williams; children, Andrew John Williams (Brittney) and David Robert Williams; precious grandchildren, Gavin, Avery, Breleigh, and Gracie; brothers, Freddy Williams (Judi) and Steve Williams (Elaine); and sisters, Rose Williams Skelton (Billy Wayne) and Carolyn Williams Bartle; and

WHEREAS, traveling with his family was very important to Johnny; he received much satisfaction from taking the family on cruises and road trips; more than anything in the world, Johnny loved his family and most importantly his



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57 grandchildren; they loved him back just as strongly, and he
58 will be missed beyond what words can convey; now therefore,

59 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
60 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of John "Johnny"
61 David Williams is recorded with deep sadness, and this
62 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with
63 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
64 many.