

**SJR27 INTRODUCED**



1 SJR27

2 3PSFTEZ-1

3 By Senators Bell, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, 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 CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND  
5 LEGACY OF WILLIAM GRANT LYNCH, JR.

6

7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
8 passing of William Grant Lynch, Jr., longtime president and  
9 chairman of Talladega Superspeedway and one of the most  
10 respected leaders in NASCAR history, who departed this life  
11 on October 2, 2025, at the age of 71; and

12 WHEREAS, William Grant Lynch, Jr. was born on October  
13 23, 1953, in Rapid City, South Dakota, to Dr. William Grant  
14 Lynch, Sr. and Sara McMichael Tyer; he was raised in  
15 Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he graduated from R.J.  
16 Reynolds High School and later attended Lees-McRae College  
17 and North Carolina State University; and

18 WHEREAS, Grant Lynch began his professional career  
19 with R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's Marketing Enterprises,  
20 where he worked for a decade and served as a key liaison  
21 between NASCAR and its longtime Cup Series sponsor, helping  
22 to strengthen one of the sport's most enduring partnerships;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, in 1993, he joined Talladega Superspeedway  
25 as General Manager and was promoted to President later that  
26 year, eventually serving as Chairman; during more than 26  
27 years of leadership he guided the track through a  
28 transformative era marked by growth and modernization, and

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29 he strengthened relationships with fans, competitors, and  
30 industry leaders; and

31 WHEREAS, under his direction, Talladega Superspeedway  
32 underwent numerous enhancements, culminating in a  
33 \$50,000,000 infield transformation completed in 2019; that  
34 same year the track celebrated its 50th anniversary season  
35 and hosted the 100th NASCAR Cup Series race, for which Grant  
36 Lynch served as Grand Marshal and delivered the command to  
37 start engines before retiring later that year; and

38 WHEREAS, in recognition of his contributions to the  
39 sport, Grant Lynch received NASCAR's Buddy Shuman Award in  
40 2018 and also served as a Vice President of International  
41 Speedway Corporation, overseeing the development and  
42 construction of Kansas Speedway and Chicagoland Speedway;  
43 and

44 WHEREAS, beyond motorsports, Grant Lynch was deeply  
45 committed to the Talladega community, where he and his wife  
46 raised their two daughters; he served on numerous civic and  
47 charitable boards, including the Alabama Institute for Deaf  
48 and Blind, the Antique Talladega Board, the Boy Scouts  
49 Council, the Regions Bank Board, and the Talladega County  
50 Economic Development Authority, frequently in leadership  
51 roles; and

52 WHEREAS, his civic impact was especially evident at  
53 the historic Talladega Ritz Theatre, where he served for  
54 more than a decade as Board Chairman and helped expand arts  
55 education, complete major capital improvements, and secure  
56 long-term financial stability for the nationally recognized

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57 Art Deco landmark; and

58 WHEREAS, following his retirement, Grant Lynch served  
59 as President of the Alabama Wildlife Federation and remained  
60 an avid outdoorsman; he was widely admired for his  
61 larger-than-life personality, approachability, and genuine  
62 love for people, earning a reputation as both a steward of  
63 Talladega Superspeedway and a trusted friend to many; and

64 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his mother, Sara  
65 McMichael Tyer; he is survived by his loving wife, Marcia  
66 Pfaff Lynch; children, Ashley Lynch Jackson (Chris) and Sara  
67 Katherine Lynch; father and step-mother, Dr. William Grant  
68 Lynch, Sr. and Ann Warren Lynch; sisters, Donna Lynch Sparks  
69 (Dwight), Diane Lynch Herring (Steve), and Dawn Lynch Kucera  
70 (Gary); and many nieces, nephews, extended family members,  
71 and friends; and

72 WHEREAS, William Grant Lynch, Jr. will be remembered  
73 for his vision, integrity, and enduring devotion to family,  
74 community, and the sport of motorsports, and for helping to  
75 shape Talladega Superspeedway into one of the most iconic  
76 venues in the world; now therefore,

77 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
78 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of William Grant  
79 Lynch, Jr. is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
80 resolution is offered in lasting tribute to his remarkable  
81 life and service, with heartfelt sympathy extended to his  
82 family, whose loss is shared by countless friends,  
83 colleagues, and admirers.