

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



1
2
3
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



SJR27 INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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



SJR27 INTRODUCED

Art Deco landmark; and

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

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

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

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