

SJR39 ENROLLED



1 SJR39
2 ARDEGSQ-2
3 By Senator Bell
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 10-Feb-26



SJR39 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3

4 SJR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
5 LEGACY OF CLIFFORD RAY MILLER.

6

7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
8 peaceful passing of Mr. Clifford "Ray" Miller of Talladega,
9 Alabama, on December 15, 2025, while we also celebrate his
10 long, beautiful life that ended at the age of 90; and

11 WHEREAS, his life was a blessing, and he will be
12 lovingly remembered by the countless lives he touched; and

13 WHEREAS, Ray Miller was born in Ball Play, Alabama,
14 but lived most of his life in Talladega; he was a member of
15 First Methodist Church of Talladega for more than 60 years,
16 where he served as the head usher; and

17 WHEREAS, early in his career, he worked as a manager
18 for B.F. Goodrich in Talladega, Tuscaloosa, and Selma; in
19 1967, he became Executive Director of the Alabama Industries
20 for the Blind (AIB), from where he retired in 1996; during
21 his tenure there, he tripled AIB's workforce, making it the
22 largest employer of visually impaired people in the state
23 and second in the entire country; Ray was honored with the
24 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Industries of
25 the Blind for his dedication and exemplary service; and

26 WHEREAS, Ray was the embodiment of a selfless public
27 servant, which he demonstrated through his membership on
28 various boards and organizations throughout Talladega; he



SJR39 Enrolled

29 joined the Talladega Municipal Airport Board in 1977,
30 serving as Chair from 2000 until 2024; he was also a member
31 of the Talladega City School Board for 14 years, during
32 which time he served multiple terms as President; in
33 addition, Ray was a former president of the United Way and
34 the Greater Talladega Area Chamber of Commerce, where he was
35 responsible for starting the beloved April in Talladega
36 Pilgrimage; he also served on boards for Regions Bank in
37 Talladega, Talladega Parks and Recreation, the Vocational
38 Advisory Board, Talladega Water and Sewer, Top Trails Board
39 of Directors, and countless others; and

40 WHEREAS, although he was extremely dedicated and
41 successful in all of his causes, two were especially close
42 to Ray's heart; he joined the Lions Club in 1962 and held
43 every office available in the organization including the
44 office of President; he was proudly inducted into the Lions
45 Club Hall of Fame after more than 60 years of devotion to
46 the club; Ray also loved volunteering with Meals on Wheels
47 and the Red Door Kitchen, continuing to express his desire
48 to serve in these programs up until his death; and

49 WHEREAS, Ray Miller was preceded in death by his
50 loving wife of 56 years, Marianne Freeman Miller; son, Allen
51 Freeman Miller; grandson, Seth Lee Miller; granddaughters,
52 Marianna Brooke Miller and Savannah Caroline Gossett; and
53 several siblings; and

54 WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his daughter,
55 Merri Jane Miller; son, Thad Jackson Miller, Sr. (Lisa);
56 grandchildren, Kenneth Keith (Allison), Christopher Keith



SJR39 Enrolled

57 (Jessica), Miles Keith (Brittany), Meredith Smith (Scott),
58 Martha Miller, Selena Miller, and Thad Miller, Jr.;
59 great-grandchildren, Raigan Yates, Ryleigh Keith, Anslee
60 Keith, Brooks Burgess, Addison Keith, Gavin Grimes, William
61 Grimes, Kinsley Holcombe, Seth Keith, Trenton Keith,
62 Jeremiah Keith, Daniel Smith (Grace), Carson Smith, Wyatt
63 Allen, Baylor Rhys, Colby Gossett, Chloe Gossett, Joel,
64 David Ray, and Jamie; great-great-grandchild, Baker Smith,
65 and a host of nieces and nephews; and

66 WHEREAS, selfless, hardworking, and honest to a
67 fault, Ray's servant's heart was evident in all that he did;
68 he was a man who did so much for so many and never said a
69 cross word about anyone; his passion and dedication to the
70 city of Talladega and his family will be greatly missed and
71 not easily replaced; now therefore,

72 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
73 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. Clifford
74 Ray Miller is recorded with deep sadness, and even as we
75 mourn his death and the loss it represents, we also
76 celebrate his faith, kindness, and spirit, which will remain
77 a lasting inspiration, carried forward by the family he
78 cherished so dearly.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution is offered in
80 tribute to his life and service to others, along with
81 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
82 many.



SJR39 Enrolled

83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR39

Senate 10-Feb-26

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives

Passed: 17-Feb-26

By: Senator Bell