

**SJR39 INTRODUCED**



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



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SJR\_\_\_ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND  
LEGACY OF CLIFFORD RAY MILLER.

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

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

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

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

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



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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



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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.