

**SJR6 INTRODUCED**



1 SJR6

2 CXSFGJQ-1

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

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 14-Jan-26



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4 SJR\_\_\_\_ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FORMER  
5 REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT MELTON, JR.

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7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep regret  
8 that we record the passing of The Honorable Bryant Melton,  
9 Jr. on December 17, 2025, at the age of 85; and

10 WHEREAS, through his selfless commitment and  
11 dedication, Bryant Melton served to better the quality of  
12 life in Alabama as an Associate Pastor, Legislator, and  
13 civic leader, and he had a measurable positive impact on the  
14 lives of its residents; he was a devoted Christian, husband,  
15 father, public servant, educator, and veteran; and

16 WHEREAS, Rev. Melton was born on May 9, 1940, in  
17 Sprott, Alabama, the seventh of nine children to the late  
18 Bryant Melton, Sr. and Bertha Dobynes Melton; he accepted  
19 Christ as his Savior at an early age and joined Poplar Grove  
20 Baptist Church; and

21 WHEREAS, while attending Lincoln High School, he  
22 served as President of the Student Government Association  
23 and was President of his Senior Class; following graduation,  
24 he began college at Alabama A&M University; however, his  
25 studies were interrupted when he was drafted into the United  
26 States Army in 1960; he served multiple tours of duty that  
27 included a period in Korea; he later retired from the U.S.  
28 Army Reserve; his military service was marked by dedication

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29 and honor, traits that defined him throughout his long and  
30 distinguished life; and

31 WHEREAS, Bryant married his college sweetheart, the  
32 lovely Emma Jean Holmes, on May 5, 1962; he went on to  
33 complete his undergraduate studies at Stillman College,  
34 graduating with a degree in Chemistry in 1965; in 2000, Rev.  
35 Melton was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree by  
36 Alabama A&M University; and

37 WHEREAS, during his early career, Rev. Melton worked  
38 in various positions, including as a United States postman,  
39 insurance salesman for Protective Insurance, planner with  
40 Community Service Programs of West Alabama, quality control  
41 specialist with B.F. Goodrich for 25 years, and teacher at  
42 Druid High School and Hale County Training School; in 1990,  
43 Rev. Melton became employed by Shelton State Community  
44 College, where he held various administrative positions  
45 until he retired in August 2006; and

46 WHEREAS, Rev. Melton was elected to the Alabama  
47 Legislature in 1982, and he was re-elected seven times  
48 before retiring in 2006; he was the first Black Legislator  
49 elected from Tuscaloosa County since Reconstruction; his  
50 legacy includes helping to redesign the structures of  
51 Tuscaloosa's city and county governments, as well as the  
52 city school board, to be more representative of their  
53 populations; he was also the sponsor and co-sponsor of the  
54 Mercedes-Benz bills that brought jobs and economic  
55 development to Tuscaloosa and West Alabama; and

56 WHEREAS, Bryant Melton was very involved in the

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57 Tuscaloosa community, belonging to a number of  
58 organizations, such as the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.,  
59 the Alabama New South Coalition, the Alabama Democratic  
60 Conference, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference,  
61 and he was a life member of the NAACP and former president  
62 of the Tuscaloosa County Chapter from 1972 to 1982; during  
63 his tenure as president, Rev. Melton was responsible for  
64 starting the Annual Emancipation Proclamation Program and  
65 the Annual Human Rights Award Banquet; he was also a 32nd  
66 Degree Mason; and

67 WHEREAS, leadership and service were strong tenets of  
68 Bryant Melton's foundation; he was a charter member of the  
69 Board of Directors of the West Alabama Sickle Cell  
70 Association, former member and Chairman of the Alabama  
71 Sickle Cell Oversight and Regulatory Commission, former  
72 Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Community Service  
73 Programs of West Alabama (CSP), founding member and former  
74 Chairman of the Board of Directors of the McDonald Hughes  
75 Multi-Purpose Community Center, and Scoutmaster for the Boy  
76 Scouts of America, during which time five boys, including  
77 his son Tony, earned the prestigious Eagle Scout award;  
78 additionally, he supported many nonprofit organizations,  
79 including the Murphy African American Museum; and

80 WHEREAS, Rev. Melton also received numerous awards  
81 and honors throughout his life, including being chosen in  
82 1982 as Man of the Year for the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,  
83 Inc.; in 1983, he received the Citizen of the Year Award  
84 from the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Man of the Year from

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85 The Christian Study Center of Alabama, and the NAACP  
86 Distinguished Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership  
87 and Devoted Service; he received the Distinguished Alumni  
88 Award from the Stillman College National Alumni Association  
89 in 1984 and 1987; in 1988, Rev. Melton received the  
90 Community Service Award from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,  
91 Inc. South Eastern Region; in 1996, he was elected  
92 Legislator of the Year by the Mental Health Consumers of  
93 Alabama; in 1999, he was presented with Distinguished  
94 Service Awards from the Alabama Education Association and  
95 the Department of Industrial Relations; in 2000, he was  
96 elected Legislator of the Year by the Mental Health  
97 Commission and received awards from the Tuscaloosa County  
98 Preservation Society and the Murphy African American Museum  
99 for his contribution to the renovation of the museum; and

100 WHEREAS, Rev. Melton joined First African Baptist  
101 Church in Tuscaloosa in 1964 under the pastorate of Rev.  
102 T.Y. Rogers, Jr.; he served in various positions and  
103 activities through the years, including serving as a Trustee  
104 and later becoming Chairman of the Trustee Board; he  
105 ultimately responded to the call of ministry and preached  
106 his initial sermon there in 2010; and

107 WHEREAS, Rev. Bryant Melton, Jr. was preceded in  
108 death by his parents; three brothers, Willie Melton, David  
109 Melton, and Jonathan Melton; and four sisters, Minnie Pryor,  
110 Millie Ford, Sara Walker, and Maudie Melton; he leaves to  
111 cherish his memory his devoted wife of 63 years, Emma Jean  
112 Holmes Melton; three beloved children, Tony B. Melton

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113 (Lisa), DeLisa Melton Tolbert (Tony), and Emily Melton Bell,  
114 M.D. (Tony); sister, Carolyn Goode (Jerome); eight loving  
115 grandchildren, Tyler Melton, Justin Tolbert, Trevor Melton,  
116 Lauren Tolbert, Rachel Tolbert, Trey Bell, Ethan Bell, and  
117 Wesley Bell; dedicated brother-in-law, Earnest Holmes; his  
118 children's godmother, Alma Wyatt Jones; and a host of  
119 extended family and friends; and

120 WHEREAS, Rev. Melton's life was guided by faith and a  
121 deep love for his community; he will be remembered for his  
122 generous spirit and enduring influence on all who were  
123 privileged to know him; he leaves behind a legacy which will  
124 long endure the passage of time and remain as a comforting  
125 memory to his proud and grateful family; now therefore,

126 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
127 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of The Honorable  
128 Reverend Bryant Melton, Jr. is recorded with deep sadness,  
129 and this resolution is offered in tribute to his life and  
130 service to others, along with heartfelt sympathy to his  
131 family, whose grief is shared by many.