

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, Shelnut, 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.
6

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 Dobyne 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



SJR6 INTRODUCED

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



SJR6 INTRODUCED

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

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

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



SJR6 INTRODUCED

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

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

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



SJR6 INTRODUCED

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.