

**SJR64 ENROLLED**



1 SJR64  
2 3P1FREV-2  
3 By Senators Stewart, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,  
4 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, Singleton, Smitherman,  
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams, Woods  
9 RFD: Rules  
10 First Read: 26-Feb-26



## SJR64 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3

4 SJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE DEATH OF JO ANN  
5 BLACKMON BLAND.

6

7 WHEREAS, with an overwhelming sense of loss, we mourn  
8 the death, yet celebrate the life, of Mrs. Jo Ann Blackmon  
9 Bland of Selma, Alabama, whose passing on February 19, 2026,  
10 has left a void in the lives of her family and friends; and

11 WHEREAS, born on July 29, 1953, to Alfred Charles  
12 Blackmon and Ludie Wright Blackmon, and lovingly raised by  
13 her grandmother Sylvia Johnson, Mrs. Bland's early life was  
14 shaped by faith, discipline, and resilience in the face of  
15 segregation and injustice; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bland became involved in the Civil  
17 Rights Movement as a child, attending meetings of the Dallas  
18 County Voters League with her grandmother and later joining  
19 the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, demonstrating  
20 extraordinary courage and conviction at a young age; and

21 WHEREAS, by the age of 11 she had endured numerous  
22 arrests for her participation in nonviolent demonstrations,  
23 reflecting a remarkable commitment to justice and equality  
24 rarely seen in one so young; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1965 she marched across the Edmund Pettus  
26 Bridge on Bloody Sunday alongside hundreds of peaceful  
27 demonstrators, an event that helped awaken the conscience of  
28 the nation and contributed to the passage of the Voting



## SJR64 Enrolled

29 Rights Act of 1965; and

30 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bland was among the first students to  
31 integrate A.G. Parrish High School in Selma, further  
32 advancing the cause of equal access to education in her  
33 community; and

34 WHEREAS, she later earned a degree from the College  
35 of Staten Island and honorably served in the United States  
36 Army, continuing her life of public service; and

37 WHEREAS, upon returning home to Selma, she co-founded  
38 the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute and later  
39 established Journeys for the Soul, through which she  
40 educated visitors from around the world on the true history  
41 and legacy of the Civil Rights Movement; and

42 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bland remained committed to preserving  
43 the memory of the movement's everyday participants, working  
44 to develop Foot Soldiers Park as a tribute to those whose  
45 courage shaped American democracy; and

46 WHEREAS, throughout her life she reminded others that  
47 the struggle for civil rights is not solely the story of one  
48 people, but the shared history of the nation, and she  
49 dedicated herself to ensuring that future generations would  
50 understand both the sacrifices made and the progress  
51 achieved; and

52 WHEREAS, beyond her public contributions, she was a  
53 devoted mother, grandmother, mentor, and matriarch who  
54 instilled in her family and community the values of faith,  
55 discipline, integrity, and service; and

56 WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents;



## SJR64 Enrolled

57 grandmother, Sylvia Johnson; sisters, Jackie Maxey and Lynda  
58 Lowery; and brother, Al Blackmon; and

59 WHEREAS, left to cherish her memory are her son,  
60 Antonio Bowie, Sr.; granddaughter, Jasmyn Bowie; grandsons,  
61 Antonio Bowie, Jr., Samuel Bowie, and Jordan Bowie; sisters,  
62 Sadie Moss, Mary Myles, and Mary Hudson; and a host of  
63 nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and  
64 lifelong friends; and

65 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bland's life stands as a testament to  
66 courage rooted in faith, and her legacy will continue  
67 through those she taught, inspired, and guided; she will be  
68 sorrowfully missed, but the memory of her good deeds  
69 remains, and she will be forever treasured in the hearts of  
70 those whose lives she shared; now therefore,

71 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
72 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That while mourning the death of  
73 Mrs. Jo Ann Blackmon Bland, it is comforting to remember her  
74 extraordinary life of courage, service, and devotion to the  
75 principles of justice and equality, and this resolution is  
76 offered to her grieving family with heartfelt sympathy.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That "I, Senator Robert  
78 Stewart, Jr., am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of  
79 Jo Ann Bland: civil rights activist, economic development  
80 champion, and visionary leader. I knew her as Momma Bland.  
81 As a boy, I sat at her feet at the National Voting Rights  
82 Museum while she served as curator, listening to stories  
83 that shaped my understanding of courage and sacrifice.



## **SJR64 Enrolled**

84           Little did I know that years later she would become  
85 my boss at Foot Soldiers Park. She lead downtown Selma  
86 revitalization. Life has a way of bringing things full  
87 circle.

88           She poured into generations with truth, strength, and  
89 unwavering love for Selma. Her legacy is woven into the soil  
90 of this sacred city.

91           I am praying for our Selma family and for our  
92 community at large. Grateful beyond words that we were  
93 blessed to know such a beautiful soul."



**SJR64 Enrolled**

94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126

---

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

---

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR64

Senate 26-Feb-26

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

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

---

House of Representatives

Passed: 03-Mar-26

---

By: Senator Stewart