

SJR82 INTRODUCED



1 SJR82

2 KHI1PUA-1

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

9 RFD: Rules

10 First Read: 12-Mar-26



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

SJR___ HONORING THE LEGACY OF JOHNNY WILLIAMS BY NAMING THE TROY UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC DIRECTORS SUITE AFTER HIM.

WHEREAS, the legacy of beloved and impactful Troy University Sports Hall of Fame member and former Athletic Director John David "Johnny" Williams will continue to be honored as Troy names its Athletic Directors Suite at Veterans Memorial Stadium, located at 211 South George Wallace Drive on the university campus, after him; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Williams passed away on February 4, 2026, at the age of 68, following a battle with leukemia; he was an instrumental leader in Troy's move from National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II to Division I; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong sports aficionado from Tuscaloosa, Johnny was a star athlete at Holt High School, earning a four-year scholarship to the University of North Alabama (UNA) and starting every game of his college career; upon graduation, he was asked to coach; a few years later, he became a graduate assistant at what was then known as Troy State University; and

WHEREAS, during his 20 years at Troy, Johnny served on the 1987 coaching staff that was named the American Football Coaches Association Coaching Staff of the Year, following Troy's Division II National Championship run; he



SJR82 INTRODUCED

29 worked his way up to Defensive Coordinator and eventually
30 Athletic Director, a position he held from 1994 until 2004;
31 during that time, Troy won 28 conference championships,
32 including four in baseball and three each in football and
33 men's basketball; and

34 WHEREAS, after his departure from Troy, Johnny spent
35 three years as senior associate athletic director at The
36 University of Alabama under then-Athletic Director Mal
37 Moore; renowned for his sports marketing acumen, Johnny
38 founded Creative Marketing Management in 2007 and at the
39 time of his death was executive director of the Central
40 Alabama Sports Commission; looking to build on the legacy of
41 the defunct Blue-Gray All-Star Classic, a former Christmas
42 Day staple in Montgomery, he created the Raycom College
43 Football All-Star Classic, which drew more than 18,000 fans
44 to its inaugural (and only) game in 2013 at Montgomery's
45 Cramton Bowl; and

46 WHEREAS, the following year, Johnny founded the
47 Camellia Bowl, a traditional college football postseason
48 game played each year in Montgomery; the 11th edition of the
49 game was played this past December at Cramton Bowl, with a
50 new name and title sponsor, the IS4S Salute to Veterans
51 Bowl; and

52 WHEREAS, Johnny amassed quite a few accolades through
53 the years; in 2002, he received the General Robert Neyland
54 Athletics Director Award from the All-American Football
55 Foundation, and in 2016, he was inducted into the Troy
56 Sports Hall of Fame; in addition, since he was an All-Gulf



SJR82 INTRODUCED

57 South Conference defensive lineman during his playing days
58 at UNA, he was named to the Lions' Team of the Decade for
59 the 1970s; and

60 WHEREAS, Johnny Williams was a pioneer in collegiate
61 athletics and was instrumental in many positive moments for
62 not only Troy Athletics but the entire collegiate sports
63 landscape; his charisma and endearing personality made him a
64 friend to all; now therefore,

65 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
66 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we reflect with deep
67 gratitude and respect for the contributions of Johnny
68 Williams to college sports in Alabama, and this resolution
69 is offered to his family in sincere appreciation for his
70 hard work and the impeccable example that he set for student
71 athletes statewide.