

1 HR459
2 119367-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Hinshaw, Ball, McCutcheon,
4 Williams (P), Hall and Taylor
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 02-MAR-10

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. JAMES R. CLEARY.
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10 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and regret that
11 news is received of the death of Mr. James R. Cleary of
12 Huntsville, Alabama, on February 15, 2010, at the age of 83
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, a retired attorney, Mr. Cleary was a highly
15 regarded civic leader; born July 16, 1926, in Springville, he
16 graduated from Birmingham-Southern College in 1948 and earned
17 his law degree from Northwestern Law School in 1951; he moved
18 to Huntsville to establish the Army legal office at Redstone
19 Arsenal and worked there until entering private practice in
20 1955; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Cleary played a major role in the
22 development of Huntsville's economy; he was one of the
23 founding partners of WAFG-TV, a station that became WAAY-TV,
24 and was one of the founders of The Huntsville News, which was
25 later sold to The Huntsville Times; he also was a founding
26 director of Security Federal Savings and Loan, which became
27 Secor, and American National Bank, which became AmSouth,

1 serving on the board of directors of both institutions for
2 many years; and

3 WHEREAS, among his civic contributions, he served on
4 the Madison County Airport Authority from 1968-1986; he was
5 the Madison County president of the Jaycees 1955-1956 and
6 state vice president of the Jaycees in 1957, when he was also
7 named the "Young Man of the Year" for Huntsville; his
8 additional leadership roles included membership on the Board
9 of Trustees for Birmingham-Southern College and serving as
10 president of the Optimist Club of Huntsville and lieutenant
11 governor of the Alabama-Mississippi District; devoted to
12 family and faith, he was a member of the First United
13 Methodist Church for more than 50 years, where he served on
14 the administrative board and in many other capacities; and

15 WHEREAS, he leaves to mourn his death his beloved
16 wife of 50 years, Voncille; two daughters, Johanna Cleary and
17 Susan (Bill) Sommers; sister, Louise (Jack) Amos; and seven
18 nephews and nieces; preceding him in death were his parents,
19 Bereman Leroy Cleary and Bertie Jones Cleary; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Cleary was a valued member of the
21 community whose presence will be greatly missed by all those
22 who were privileged to know him during the course of his long
23 and productive life; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. James R.
26 Cleary is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is

1 offered in highest tribute to his life of achievement and
2 service, along with heartfelt sympathy to his grieving family.