

1 HJR28
2 126064-1
3 By Representatives Long, Baughn, Roberts, Johnson (W), Merrill
4 and Moore (B)
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 03-MAR-11

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. RALPH HAMMOND.
9

10 WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we receive
11 news of the death of Mr. Ralph Hammond of Arab, Alabama, on
12 December 10, 2010, at the age of 94 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Hammond was a civic leader and a man of
14 letters whose poetry was widely appreciated; he was twice
15 elected mayor of Arab and served as Poet Laureate of Alabama
16 from 1991 to 1995; his acclaimed collections of verse
17 reflected his love of nature and unfaltering faith; and

18 WHEREAS, born in Big Wills Valley in Etowah County,
19 Alabama, he served his country with honor and distinction in
20 the United States Army as a military war correspondent during
21 World War II; and

22 WHEREAS, after returning to Alabama, he attended The
23 University of Alabama, where he worked on the staff of The
24 Crimson White, the student newspaper; the highlights of his
25 political career included serving as chief of staff, press
26 secretary, and speechwriter for former Governor James E.
27 Folsom from 1947-1950 and 1956-1959; Mr. Hammond moved to Arab

1 in 1954 and was appointed to the United States Study
2 Commission in 1959 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower; and
3 WHEREAS, endowed with a keen intellect and a way
4 with words, Mr. Hammond was very actively engaged in promoting
5 the reading and writing of poetry; his leadership roles
6 included serving as president of the Alabama State Poetry
7 Society and two terms as president of the National Federation
8 of State Poetry Societies; and

9 WHEREAS, among his honors and recognitions through
10 the years, he was named Arab's Outstanding Citizen in 1990,
11 was awarded a Certificate of Poetical Guidance in 1999 by the
12 National Federation of State Poetry Societies, and received an
13 Honorary Doctorate from the University of West Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, he was the author of more than 25 books,
15 including "Personal Encounters," a memoir of his experiences
16 with William Faulkner, Pablo Picasso, T.S. Eliot, Gertrude
17 Stein, Carl Sandburg, and Ernest Hemingway, whom he met in
18 1944 while a war correspondent in London; and

19 WHEREAS, his survivors include his son, James
20 Hammond, and daughter-in-law, Joy; preceding him in death was
21 his beloved wife, Myra; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Hammond was an iconic figure in the
23 political and cultural life of the State of Alabama; although
24 his presence will be missed, his legacy will endure and his
25 memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who
26 were fortunate to know him during his long and productive
27 lifetime; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. Ralph Hammond
3 is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered
4 in highest tribute to his life along with heartfelt sympathy
5 to his family.