

1 SJR24
2 126661-1
3 By Senators Brooks and Glover
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 03-MAR-11

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. WILLIAM JOSEPH HARKINS.
9

10 WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we receive
11 news of the death of Dr. William Joseph "Joe" Harkins of
12 Mobile, Alabama, on January 19, 2011, at the age of 87 years;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the passing of Dr. Harkins leaves a void in
15 the lives of his loving family, his many friends, and the
16 entire community, where he was well-known and highly regarded
17 as a civic leader, educator, and expert on state and local
18 government; and

19 WHEREAS, a native of Quincy, Massachusetts, he was
20 an outstanding student-athlete as a young man; after
21 graduating from Colgate University, he enlisted in the United
22 States Army in 1943; as a private in the 7th Regiment of the
23 3d Infantry Division, he survived the landing at Anzio Beach
24 in January 1944 but was severely wounded during the pursuit of
25 the German Army and subsequently underwent rehabilitation in
26 Atlanta, Georgia, for his injuries; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Harkins worked for the Veterans
2 Administration while attending Emory University, graduating
3 with a Doctor of Philosophy Degree, and Atlanta Law School,
4 where he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree; and

5 WHEREAS, he taught political science at Georgia
6 Tech, Emory University, Gonzaga University, and Western
7 Kentucky University before settling his family in Mobile,
8 where he was an esteemed professor at the University of South
9 Alabama from 1969-1991; many of his students became prominent
10 and influential figures in government, including our friends
11 and colleagues, Senator Ben Brooks and Senator Rusty Glover;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, among his roles of community leadership,
14 Dr. Harkins was very active in the Cottage Hill Civitan Club
15 in Mobile; after retiring from the University of South
16 Alabama, he became energetically involved in St. Dominic's
17 Parish, and he devoted much of his time to visiting
18 parishioners who were unable to leave their homes; and

19 WHEREAS, he is survived by two daughters, Carol
20 Endris and Patricia Harkins-Pierre; two sons, Bill Harkins and
21 Ned Harkins; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, preceding him in death were his beloved
24 wife of 63 years, Edwina, and his parents, William and Carrie
25 Harkins; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Harkins was a valued member of the
27 community; although his presence will be missed, his legacy

1 will endure and his memory will be cherished in the hearts and
2 minds of those who were fortunate to know him; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Dr. William
5 Joseph Harkins is recorded with deep sadness, and this
6 resolution is offered in highest tribute to his life, along
7 with heartfelt sympathy to his grieving family.