

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

1 SJR24

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4 ENROLLED, SJR24,

5 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. WILLIAM JOSEPH HARKINS.

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Harkins worked for the Veterans
25 Administration while attending Emory University, graduating

1 with a Doctor of Philosophy Degree, and Atlanta Law School,
2 where he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree; and

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Harkins was a valued member of the
25 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.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Senate

I hereby certify

10 originated in and was adopted by the Senate.
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