

1 HR955

2 131783-2

3 By Representatives Morrow, Baker, Ball, Bandy, Barton, Baughn,  
4 Beckman, Beech, Black, Boman, Boothe, Boyd, Bracy, Bridges,  
5 Brown, Burdine, Buskey, Buttram, Canfield, Chesteen, Clouse,  
6 Coleman, Collins, Colston, Davis, DeMarco, Drake, England,  
7 Farley, Faust, Fincher, Ford, Forte, Galliher, Gaston, Givan,  
8 Greer, Greeson, Grimsley, Hall, Hammon, Harper, Henry, Hill,  
9 Holmes, Howard, Hubbard (J), Hubbard (M), Hurst, Ison,  
10 Jackson, Johnson (K), Johnson (R), Johnson (W), Jones,  
11 Kennedy, Knight, Laird, Lee, Lindsey, Long, Love, Mask,  
12 McAdory, McCampbell, McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin, McMillan,  
13 Melton, Merrill, Millican, Mitchell, Moore (B), Moore (M),  
14 Newton (C), Newton (D), Nordgren, Oden, Patterson, Payne,  
15 Poole, Rich, Roberts, Robinson (J), Robinson (O), Rogers,  
16 Sanderford, Scott, Sessions, Shiver, Thomas, Todd, Treadaway,  
17 Tuggle, Vance, Wallace, Warren, Weaver, Williams (D), Williams  
18 (J), Williams (P), Wood and Wren

19 RFD:

20 First Read: 09-JUN-11

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 DESIGNATING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 SHROUD AWARD.  
9

10 WHEREAS, once again it is time for the Shroud Award,  
11 a unique sine die custom of the Alabama House of  
12 Representatives in which the deadest bill of the session is  
13 recognized. First, it is appropriate to begin with a brief  
14 history lesson for our new representatives. The Shroud Award  
15 Ceremony was the creation of a former member of this body  
16 whose vocation was mortician, and whose twisted appreciation  
17 of dark humor has been annually revived as a one-of-a-kind  
18 final day event during which everything is TURNED UPSIDE DOWN  
19 and former LOSERS suddenly become the overwhelming WINNERS.  
20 Yes, we guess you could say it is a lot like last year's  
21 election.... Hold it, the Majority requests that we amend the  
22 preceding language. The correct wording should be that  
23 everything has been turned RIGHT SIDE UP.

24 Among our current members, Representatives Holmes,  
25 Kennedy, Knight, Black, Rogers, Bridges, Wood, Jackson, and  
26 Morrow have previously obtained this ultimate dishonor. There  
27 are also another 24 previous award winners, but those folks

1       now have better things to do, .... LIKE SLEEPING AT NIGHT.  
2       Former recipients have the demented pleasure of choosing the  
3       next designee, a morbid exercise that allows them to share  
4       their pain, shame, and fame. But freshmen, don't be concerned,  
5       there is some good news. The unlucky winner receives that dark  
6       suit in the box displayed before you. It's the shroud and it's  
7       a whole lot better looking than the threads some of you are  
8       wearing. Fortunately, one size fits all. Unfortunately, it  
9       won't cover your backside.

10               Historically, a few runners-up are mentioned, prior  
11       to naming the annual recipient. However, this year the Shroud  
12       Committee could not find any bills bad enough to qualify as  
13       also-rans. Basically, if it made to the FLOOR, the next stop  
14       was the Senate DOOR. Instead, we have been asked to recap this  
15       session's primary undertaking, the Handshake With Alabama.  
16       This offering had a bone crushing grip on the House that was  
17       not released until every bill was addressed. This pledge was  
18       not your typical Oprah style touchy feely hand holding  
19       rhetoric, rather, it was a CONSERVATIVE CHEST BUMP that  
20       knocked the wind, as well as other bodily discharges, out of  
21       the unsuspecting. It seems that this pledge between party and  
22       people turned out to be the TRUE REPUBLICAN PACT. It was a  
23       far-ranging promise for action spanning multiple topics. One  
24       bill in the package would allow Alabamians to opt out of the  
25       Federal health care plan. Experts keep telling us the national  
26       plan will cause us to LOSE OUR DOCTORS, but they failed to  
27       tell us they would become our GOVERNORS. The contract also

1 included bills concerning immigration, casting a secret  
2 ballot, budgeting, ethics, and AUBURN winning the national  
3 championship. BAMA FANS, next time you better READ THE SMALL  
4 PRINT. Time will tell if everyone is ALL IN; and

5 WHEREAS, having dispensed with secondary matters, we  
6 can now turn to the main event, naming the deadest bill of  
7 2011. This bill:

8 Was about being STOMPED.

9 Was both supported and opposed through the GRAPE  
10 VINE.

11 Set off a holy war between those MAKING SPIRITS and  
12 those feeling THE SPIRIT.

13 Without taking a single sip, caused the sponsor to  
14 GET HAMMERED.

15 And created a BIG MAC ATTACK that was definitely  
16 SUPERSIZED and which by no means resulted in a HAPPY MEAL.

17 Got it? Don't get too proud. Even a DRUNK could  
18 figure this one out. The 33rd annual winner of the Shroud  
19 Award is The Home Brew Legalization Bill, which would allow  
20 the production of home brewed beer, mead, cider, and wine. "AL  
21 KEY HAUL" always has an effect on folks. In Dixie, balancing  
22 personal liberties and religious beliefs is TRICKY and dealing  
23 with WHISKEY is mighty RISKY. The distance between the  
24 Hallelujah Road and the Wine Trail is only a couple of miles.  
25 A hobbyist KEGGER to some is just a BOOTLEGGER to others. On  
26 one side were the MEAD NEEDERS and CIDER HIDERS and on the  
27 other were the HOPS COPS and YEAST POLICE. Members' phone

1 lines and internet mailboxes were bottled up with those  
2 spreading the word, as they believed it.

3           You would think it would be embarrassing enough to  
4 just win this award, but the way the Man from Madison went  
5 about it is really something to WHINE about. With minimal  
6 fermentation time, the bill was poured out of committee and  
7 landed on the ten minute special order calendar. After  
8 threatened objections, it was carried over. The sponsor said  
9 no problem, as there should be no WINE BEFORE ITS TIME.  
10 Quickly reappearing on the Special Order calendar, the primary  
11 proponent didn't need a little something extra to feel  
12 fortified. After all, he was a member of the overwhelming  
13 majority, he had 22 solid co-sponsors, and for a second time  
14 in a couple of weeks it was being served up to his thirsty  
15 supporters. Things were as cool as a cold home brew on a hot  
16 August day. What could go wrong? Apparently a lot. First, his  
17 fellow Republicans left him HIGH AND DRY, pun definitely  
18 intended. That hurt so bad he is thinking about CHANGING  
19 PARTIES. No, not to the Democratic Party, but the PROHIBITION.  
20 Adding insult to injury, the lead singer should have done more  
21 PREACHING TO HIS OWN CHOIR. His faithful flock quickly began  
22 to flee. Sadly, six of his 22 co-sponsors abstained, .... from  
23 voting that is, not drinking. And even worse, another six  
24 voted against the bill bearing their own name. Clearly, the  
25 sponsor had been CORKSCREWED. While our brother had a lot of  
26 converts, they were all going the wrong way. We suspect if he  
27 kept ministering to his less than committed congregation,

1        pretty soon his own name would have ended up in the nay  
2        column. When the tote board finally lit up, everyone SAW THE  
3        LIGHT. Final vote: 28 Yeas; 45 Nays; and 10 Abstentions.  
4        Without doubt, this offering didn't have a prayer; now  
5        therefore,

6                    BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
7        THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the winner of the 2011 Shroud  
8        Award is House Bill 266, the Home Brew Legalization Act.  
9        Having put a final cork in this effort, the courageous  
10       Representative Mac McCutcheon should come forward to receive  
11       the symbolic shroud and seek our forgiveness.