

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

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.