

1 SR5
2 135816-2
3 By Senators Ward, Allen, Beasley, Beason, Bedford, Blackwell,
4 Brewbaker, Brooks, Bussman, Coleman, Dial, Dunn, Fielding,
5 Figures, Glover, Holley, Holtzclaw, Irons, Keahey, Marsh,
6 McGill, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield,
7 Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Taylor, Waggoner, Whatley, and
8 Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 07-FEB-12

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7
8 NAMING THE MICHAEL A. FIGURES-RYAN DEGRAFFENRIED,
9 JR., SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM.
10

11 WHEREAS, it is our distinct privilege to honor our
12 late friend and colleague, Michael A. Figures, for his
13 distinguished legal and legislative service by naming the
14 Michael A. Figures-Ryan deGraffenried Senate Judiciary Room;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Michael Figures received a BA Degree from
17 Stillman College in 1969, where he served as SGA President; in
18 1972, Michael earned a JD Degree in law from the University of
19 Alabama School of Law, where he was one of the first three
20 African Americans to earn a JD Degree; and

21 WHEREAS, Michael Figures first practiced public
22 interest law before returning to his hometown of Mobile in
23 1975 to partner with the renowned Vernon Z. Crawford; shortly
24 thereafter, Michael became a partner with the Mobile firm of
25 Figures, Jackson, and Harris; and

26 WHEREAS, Michael Figures was elected to the State
27 Senate in 1978 from Mobile County, the first African American

1 to be elected from that area; and served in the Senate with
2 passion and distinction for the next 18 years; and

3 WHEREAS, upon his tragic and untimely death in 1996,
4 Senator Figures was serving as Senate President Pro Tempore;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Michael Figures was a fierce and
7 effective advocate for the causes of the common man, small
8 business, civil rights, and public education; and

9 WHEREAS, Michael Figures was a gifted leader who
10 possessed extraordinary legal and legislative knowledge and
11 skills; indeed, Michael Figures was a statesman who is
12 remembered by his colleagues for his dedication to cause,
13 loyalty, and for his impassioned and eloquent oratory; and

14 WHEREAS, Michael Figures is also remembered for his
15 significant contributions to the Alabama Lawyers Association,
16 the Alabama State Bar, the Alabama New South Coalition, and
17 the Stillman College Board of Trustees; and

18 WHEREAS, Michael Figures was the loving husband of
19 our friend and colleague, Senator Vivian Davis Figures, and
20 was a devoted father to his sons, Jelani Anthony Figures,
21 Shomari Coleman Figures, Akil Michael Figures, and Derrick
22 Desmond Figures; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF
24 ALABAMA, That we recognize and honor the late Michael A.
25 Figures by naming the current Senate Judiciary Room the
26 Michael A. Figures-Ryan deGraffenried, Jr., Senate Judiciary
27 Committee Room.

