

1 HR304

2 139224-1

3 By Representatives England, Baker, Ball, Bandy, Barton,
4 Baughn, Beckman, Beech, Black, Boman, Boothe, Boyd, Bracy,
5 Bridges, Brown, Burdine, Buskey, Buttram, Carns, Chesteen,
6 Clouse, Coleman, Collins, Colston, Davis, DeMarco, Drake,
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,
13 McCutcheon, McMillan, Melton, Merrill, Millican, Mitchell,
14 Moore (B), Moore (M), Morrow, Newton (C), Newton (D),
15 Nordgren, Oden, Patterson, Payne, Poole, Rich, Roberts,
16 Robinson (J), Robinson (O), Rogers, Sanderford, Scott,
17 Sessions, Shiver, Thomas, Todd, Treadaway, Tuggle, Vance,
18 Wallace, Warren, Weaver, Williams (D), Williams (J), Williams
19 (P), Wood and Wren

20 RFD:

21 First Read: 20-MAR-12

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. RICKY WYATT.
9

10 WHEREAS, with an overwhelming sense of loss, we
11 receive news of the death of Mr. Ricky Wyatt of Cottondale,
12 Alabama, on November 1, 2011, at the age of 57 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Wyatt played a major role in
14 transforming the mental health system in Alabama and the
15 nation, as the plaintiff in the landmark case *Wyatt v.*
16 *Stickney*, which established principles of humane treatment of
17 persons with mental illness or mental retardation who were
18 institutionalized; and

19 WHEREAS, born in Tuscaloosa in 1954 and reared by
20 his great-grandmother, he became a troubled and troublesome
21 teenager who was committed to Bryce Hospital at the age of 14
22 by his legal guardian at the urging of his probation officer;
23 patients at the hospital at the time were subjected to
24 horrendous conditions, partially because budget cuts resulted
25 in only one nurse for every 250 patients; after the courts
26 ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in the class action suit,

1 standards were set that required benevolent and individualized
2 treatment plans for patients; and

3 WHEREAS, survivors include his mother, Sylvia
4 Hunter; sister, Kathy King; and brother, Ronnie Hunter; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Wyatt was instrumental in improving the
6 lives of countless individuals; although his presence will be
7 greatly missed, his legacy will endure and his memory will be
8 cherished in the hearts and minds of those who were fortunate
9 to encounter him during the brief span of his lifetime; now
10 therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
12 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the untimely death of Mr.
13 Ricky Wyatt is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution
14 is offered in highest tribute to his life, along with
15 heartfelt sympathy to his grieving family.