

1 HJR34  
2 147887-2  
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Patterson, Ball, Johnson (W),  
4 Williams (P), McCutcheon and Hall  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 12-FEB-13

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. JULIAN DAVIDSON, SPACE AND  
9 MISSILE DEFENSE PIONEER AND U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER  
10 BENEFACTOR.  
11

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Julian Davidson of Huntsville, Alabama,  
13 founder of Davidson Technologies and benefactor of the U.S.  
14 Space & Rocket Center's Davidson Center for Space Exploration,  
15 died January 31, 2013; and

16 WHEREAS, a native of Oakman, Alabama, in Walker  
17 County, Dr. Davidson received a Bachelor's Degree in  
18 Electrical Engineering from Auburn University and a Doctor of  
19 Science Degree from Southeastern Institute of Technology; and

20 WHEREAS, before founding the aerospace and defense  
21 company Davidson Technologies in 1996, Dr. Davidson was Deputy  
22 Program Manager of Ballistic Missile Defense for the U.S. Army  
23 and was the first director of the Advanced Ballistic Missile  
24 Defense Agency; and

25 WHEREAS, a pioneer of space and missile defense, Dr.  
26 Davidson's distinguished career spanned nearly 60 years; his

1 technical expertise combined with unparalleled leadership  
2 talents propelled him through a long and illustrious career  
3 achieving success in both government and industry; his legacy  
4 lives on in many of the technologies in use today in the  
5 development of our space and missile defense systems; and

6 WHEREAS, the employees of Davidson Technologies are  
7 especially saddened because Dr. Davidson was a friend and  
8 mentor, and his kind, humble, and gentle spirit inspired  
9 everyone who worked for him; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Davidson is remembered for his  
11 generosity in the Huntsville community; he and his wife,  
12 Dorothy, donated \$2 million to boost fund-raising efforts for  
13 the 68,000 square-foot, \$22 million Davidson Center for Space  
14 Exploration at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center; the Davidson  
15 Center, which opened in 2008, houses a restored original  
16 Saturn V rocket, one of only three remaining in the world, and  
17 the center has become a premiere tourist attraction in North  
18 Alabama; and

19 WHEREAS, the Davidsons also generously contributed  
20 \$2 million toward the construction of the Davidson Center for  
21 the Arts at the Huntsville Museum of Art; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Davidson is survived by his wife,  
23 Dorothy Davidson; children, Diana Lynn Davidson, M.D., Janice  
24 Faye Davidson, Randall Eugene Davidson, and Robert Lee (Amy)  
25 Davidson; grandchildren, Wendy Faith Holderfield and William  
26 Blair Peyton; and three great-granddaughters, Teagan

1       Holderfield, Shelby Holderfield, and Michaela Holderfield; now  
2       therefore,

3               BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4       HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the entire Madison County  
5       Legislative Delegation joins the Legislature in mourning the  
6       death of Dr. Julian Davidson.

7               BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we give thanks to God  
8       for the extraordinary life and service of Dr. Davidson, and we  
9       extend our deepest heartfelt sympathy to his family, for whom  
10       a copy of this resolution is provided.