

1 HR156

2 150689-1

3 By Representatives Merrill, Poole, England and Harper

4 RFD:

5 First Read: 20-MAR-13

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF JUDGE ROBERT V. WOOLDRIDGE.  
9

10 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we mourn  
11 the death of Retired Municipal Judge Robert V. Wooldridge of  
12 Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on February 25, 2013, at the age of 86  
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Judge Wooldridge's passing leaves a void in  
15 the lives of his loving family and his many friends; his  
16 distinguished judicial service spanned 18 years, and he was  
17 one of Tuscaloosa's longest serving municipal judges when he  
18 retired from the bench in 2003; and

19 WHEREAS, born in Pickens County, he served with  
20 honor and distinction in the United States Navy in World War  
21 II; after his military service, he earned a Bachelor's Degree  
22 in 1948 from The University of Alabama, returning three years  
23 later to receive his Law Degree; he was serving as a Navy  
24 Reserve officer when he was called up for the Korean War as he  
25 was finishing his final law exams, and after returning for the  
26 second time, he opened a law office in Tuscaloosa in 1953; and

1                   WHEREAS, among his accomplishments, Judge Wooldridge  
2 served as president of the Tuscaloosa Bar Association in 1972  
3 and was a drafter and the original chairman of the Tuscaloosa  
4 County Public Defender Commission, which was created in 1971;  
5 he was appointed Municipal Judge in 1984 and retired in  
6 January 2003, after which he continued to practice law until  
7 closing his office in 2005; and

8                   WHEREAS, widely respected as a judge who was  
9 concerned about the proper application of the law to any  
10 particular case, he understood law enforcement needs and  
11 challenges as well as the rights of the accused to have a fair  
12 trial; through the years, he combined common sense with a  
13 strong knowledge of the law, and his unbiased rulings were  
14 accepted even by attorneys who lost in his courtroom; and

15                   WHEREAS, Judge Wooldridge was a valued member of the  
16 community; although his presence will be greatly missed, his  
17 memory will be cherished and his legacy will endure in the  
18 hearts of those who were fortunate to know him; now therefore,

19                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
20 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Judge Robert V.  
21 Wooldridge is recorded with deep sadness, and it is directed  
22 that a copy of this resolution of tribute be provided to his  
23 widow, Florene J. Wooldridge, with heartfelt sympathy to his  
24 family, whose grief is shared by many.