

1 SJR61
2 151165-1
3 By Senator Figures
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 04-APR-13

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF SENATOR HINTON MITCHEM.
9

10 WHEREAS, with immense sorrow, the Legislature
11 records the death of Senator Hinton Mitchem on January 22,
12 2013, at the age of 74 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Mitchem was born and reared in
14 Georgia and received a BS degree in education from the
15 University of Georgia in 1961; a veteran of the U.S. Coast
16 Guard, he moved to Marshall County in 1962 and was the highly
17 successful President of Hinton Mitchem Tractor Company from
18 1965 until 2005; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Mitchem was elected to the
20 Albertville City Council in 1968 and was elected to the
21 Alabama House of Representatives in 1974; four years later, he
22 was elected to his first of a remarkable eight terms in the
23 Alabama Senate, representing with dignity and dedication the
24 citizens of Marshall, Blount, Madison, and DeKalb Counties;
25 upon retirement in 2010, counting his combined legislative
26 service, Senator Mitchem had served more time in the Alabama
27 Legislature than any other Senator in Alabama history; and

WHEREAS, colleagues and contemporaries of Senator Mitchem, as well as new members, admire his legislative abilities and acumen; he was an adroit consensus builder and an astute crafter of workable compromises, best employing these talents in building budgets that masterfully addressed the needs of each member while at the same time ensuring the fiscal stability of the state as a whole; it was said that the Senator was an old-school numbers man, who, with only a pen and pad could construct a multibillion dollar budget; and it was appropriate that during his last term, he admirably served two years as President Pro Tempore; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mitchem leaves a legislative legacy that will long benefit the people of Alabama; a strong supporter of education, he authored the act creating the junior college chancellorship system; in 1980, he sponsored the Alabama Housing Finance Authority which, at the time of his retirement, had sold billions in bonds to provide low-interest loans for Alabamians to buy homes; he took the lead in enacting the TVA in-lieu-of-taxes law, which rightfully returned payments to the local governments served by TVA; he championed a bond issue to renovate state parks and secured funds for the purchase of Cathedral Caverns; and he was a tireless advocate for the Alabama Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and the Alabama Special Olympics; and

WHEREAS, those in the legislative community fondly recall Senator Mitchem as a kind and considerate gentleman who was always ready to offer an encouraging word, to extend a

1 supportive hand, to lend an ear to friend and foe alike, and
2 to positively use his public position to help others; indeed,
3 he served the citizens of his district and the people of
4 Alabama with utmost integrity and rare distinction; and

5 WHEREAS, our sincere sympathies are extended to his
6 dear wife, Judy, and his children, Todd, Derrick and his wife,
7 Heather, Tonya and her husband, Steve, and Brittnie, and to
8 his four grandchildren; may each know that we sadly share in
9 the loss of such a fine man; now therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we mourn the death of Senator
12 Hinton Mitchem and extend to his family our heartfelt
13 condolences; a copy of this resolution shall be provided to
14 the family.