

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

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF SENATOR HINTON MITCHEM.
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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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, those in the legislative community fondly
26 recall Senator Mitchem as a kind and considerate gentleman who
27 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.