

1 SJR82
2 150172-1
3 By Senators Dial and Fielding
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 18-APR-13

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF SARA WILL CREWS FINLEY, M.D.
9

10 WHEREAS, it is with an overwhelming sense of loss
11 that we mourn the death of Sara Will Crews Finley, M.D., on
12 February 20, 2013, at the age of 82 years; and

13 WHEREAS, born on February 26, 1930, she was the
14 daughter of Jessie Matthews Crews and J.B. Crews of Lineville,
15 Alabama; she graduated from Lineville High School, The
16 University of Alabama, and the Medical College of Alabama; she
17 interned at Lloyd Noland Hospital and completed a traineeship
18 at the University of Uppsala, Sweden; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1960, she joined the faculty of what is
20 now the UAB School of Medicine and two years later cofounded
21 with her husband the first Medical Genetics Program in the
22 southeastern United States; for 30 years, she served as
23 Codirector of the Laboratory of Medical Genetics at UAB,
24 occupying the Wayne H. and Sara Crews Finley Chair in Medical
25 Genetics at the time of her retirement as Professor Emerita in
26 1996; in addition to her expertise, she was esteemed for her
27 devotion to patients and families; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2001, she and her husband were honored
2 by the establishment of the Finley-Compass Bank Genetics
3 Conference Center on the UAB campus; and

4 WHEREAS, she served for 20 years on the Admissions
5 Committee of the UAB School of Medicine and authored or
6 coauthored more than 150 papers, abstracts, and book chapters
7 in major professional publications; and

8 WHEREAS, among her accomplishments, she was the
9 first woman to serve as president of The University of Alabama
10 Medical Alumni Association and the Jefferson County Medical
11 Society; she was also a member of The University of Alabama's
12 President's Cabinet for more than 10 years; she was the first
13 woman member of The Rotary Club of Birmingham, and her
14 community work included service on the Boards of Directors of
15 the United Way of Central Alabama and Girls Inc.; she was a
16 longtime member of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, where she
17 taught Sunday School for more than 30 years; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Finley received many awards in
19 recognition of her scholarship, contributions to medicine, and
20 community service, including: UAB Distinguished Faculty
21 Lecturer, Distinguished Alumna Award and Martha Myers Role
22 Model Award from the UA Medical Alumni Association, Samuel
23 Buford Word Award of the Medical Association of Alabama,
24 Gardner Award of the Alabama Academy of Science, American
25 Medical Women's Association/National Library of Medicine
26 Legends Award, National Outstanding Alumna Award of Zeta Tau
27 Alpha, Birmingham Business Journal Lifetime Achievement Award,

1 Brother Bryan Humanitarian Award of the Women's Committee of
2 100 for Birmingham, Will Gaines Holmes Award from the
3 Children's Aid Society, and others; and

4 WHEREAS, she was named one of the 1989 Top Ten Women
5 in Birmingham, inducted into the Alabama Healthcare Hall of
6 Fame, and selected to Phi Beta Kappa; and

7 WHEREAS, survivors include her devoted husband of
8 more than 60 years, Dr. Wayne H. Finley; son, Dr. Randall W.
9 Finley, his wife, Amy, and their son, Christopher; daughter,
10 Sara J. Finley; sister, Janice Crews Proctor, and her husband,
11 Lister; nephew, John Bradley Proctor, his wife, Anna, their
12 daughter, Frances, and their son, Crews; niece, Sara Elizabeth
13 Proctor Isbell, her husband, Ben, and their daughters, Emma
14 and Sally; brother-in-law, Robert Finley, and his wife, Myra;
15 and many nieces, nephews and cousins; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Finley was an exceptionally
17 accomplished medical genetics pioneer who successfully
18 fulfilled many roles, but none were more important to her than
19 those of wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, cousin,
20 friend, and counselor; she will be remembered for her loyalty,
21 warmth, sense of humor, and devotion to family, church, and a
22 wide circle of friends; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Sara Will Crews
25 Finley, M.D., is recorded with deep sadness, and this
26 resolution is offered with heartfelt sympathy to her family,
27 whose grief is shared by many.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
2 resolution be provided for prominent display in the Clay
3 County Courthouse, in tribute to her inspirational life.