

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

1 SJR61

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4 ENROLLED, SJR61,

5 MOURNING THE DEATH OF SENATOR HINTON MITCHEM.

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7 WHEREAS, with immense sorrow, the Legislature
8 records the death of Senator Hinton Mitchem on January 22,
9 2013, at the age of 74 years; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, those in the legislative community fondly
2 recall Senator Mitchem as a kind and considerate gentleman who
3 was always ready to offer an encouraging word, to extend a
4 supportive hand, to lend an ear to friend and foe alike, and
5 to positively use his public position to help others; indeed,
6 he served the citizens of his district and the people of
7 Alabama with utmost integrity and rare distinction; and

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

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

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

7 SJR61

8 Senate 16-APR-13

9 I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
10 originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

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17 House of Representatives

18 Adopted: 24-APR-13

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21 By: Senator Figures