

1 HR136
2 157720-1
3 By Representative Merrill
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 06-FEB-14

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF JOE DEAN.

9
10 WHEREAS, it is with an overwhelming sense of loss
11 that we mourn the death of Robert Joe Dean, Sr., of Baton
12 Rouge, Louisiana, on November 13, 2013, at the age of 83; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Dean graduated from New Albany High
14 School in Indiana and attended Louisiana State University on a
15 basketball scholarship; Mr. Dean was a member of the LSU Team
16 of the Century, was a three-time All-SEC performer, and was
17 inducted into the LSU Sports Hall of Fame; he played
18 professional basketball with the Phillips 66 Oilers from 1956
19 through 1959; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Dean began an 18-year career
21 in broadcasting as an SEC basketball analyst and coined his
22 signature phrase "string music" referring to the swishing
23 sound of the ball through the net; that phrase still resonates
24 in basketball circles today; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1987, Mr. Dean became the athletic
26 director at LSU and retired in 2001, holding the longest
27 tenure in LSU history; during his career there, LSU won 27

1 national titles and 40 SEC championships; Mr. Dean is also
2 credited with athletic facility improvements while repairing a
3 budget crisis and started the continuing trend to divert some
4 revenue from athletics to LSU's academic program; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Dean is in the Indiana High School Hall
6 of Fame, Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, and the National
7 Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame; he led LSU in scoring in
8 1950 and in 1952, became the second LSU player to score at
9 least 1,000 points; Mr. Dean also loved the Kentucky Derby and
10 attended 45 straight Kentucky Derbies; and

11 WHEREAS, he is preceded in death by his wife of 50
12 years, Doris Hall Dean; his parents, Cyril and Thelma Dean;
13 and his sister, Joyce Dean Howison; and

14 WHEREAS, survivors include, his children Robert Joe
15 (Ellen) Dean, Jr., Marjorie Kernan Dean, and Mark Monroe
16 (Cookie) Dean; grandchildren, Scott (Kathryn) Dean, Leslie
17 Dean (David) O'Neal, Dean (Rachel) Webre, Katie Webre,
18 Marque-Anne Dean, Tanner Dean, Ridley Dean, and Joe Dean;
19 great-grandchildren Will Dean and Jack Dean; and a special
20 friend, Wanda Hargroder; and

21 WHEREAS, a valued member of the community, Joe Dean,
22 will be greatly missed; his legacy and memory are cherished in
23 the hearts and minds of all those who were fortunate enough to
24 know him and his work; now therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
26 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
27 Mr. Robert Joe Dean, Sr., we are immensely grateful for his

1 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute
2 to his inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy for
3 his family and friends.