

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

MOURNING THE DEATH OF JOE DEAN.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 1987, Mr. Dean became the athletic director at LSU and retired in 2001, holding the longest 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.