

1 HR287
2 159959-1
3 By Representatives Bridges and Laird
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 11-MAR-14

MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. ALBERT WILLIAM THORNTON.

WHEREAS, we note the death of Mr. Albert William Thornton on January 27, 2014, with deep sadness and regret; his immeasurable life of 73 years is commended and celebrated with great thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Mr. Thornton leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, born June 13, 1940, in the community of Mt. Moriah in Coosa County, Alabama, he was the son of Albert Ralph and Mary Lucille Thornton; he received his high school education in Weogufka, Alabama, and entered Southern Union State Community College in 1959, where he met and married Sidiar Phillips from Langdale, Alabama; he graduated from Auburn University in 1968; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, he entered employment with Wehadkee Yarn Mills in West Point, Georgia, where he retired in 2006; he was a well-known and much sought-after Lay Speaker

1 in the East Alabama area for over 40 years, and he served as
2 interim pastor for many local churches; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton was a former member of the
4 Alabama State National Guard; involved civically, he served as
5 President of the Neglected and Dependent Children and Youth
6 Council of Chambers County and also with Circle of Care for
7 Families of Chambers County, and as President of the Board of
8 Valley Haven School, which he served as a member for 20 years;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, a notable figure in the running community,
11 Mr. Thornton founded the Chattahoochee Chasers Running Club;
12 he, along with some fellow runners, organized the first Run
13 for Valley Haven School; he supported the school by running in
14 its Hike Bike Run Fundraiser for many years; it gave him
15 immense joy to be able to raise money for Valley Haven School
16 through running; "I have fought the good fight, I have
17 finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7; and

18 WHEREAS, his meritorious public service ended when
19 he developed Alzheimer's disease in 2006; through the years,
20 Mr. Thornton earned immense respect for his tireless
21 dedication and exceptional abilities, and a spirit of
22 selflessness and giving were his magnanimous contributions in
23 this life; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton was a valued member of the
25 community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory
26 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were
27 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
2 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
3 Mr. Albert William Thornton, we are immensely grateful for his
4 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute
5 to his inspiring legacy as well as in heartfelt sympathy to
6 his family and friends.