

1 HJR529
2 161051-1
3 By Representative Hubbard (J)
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 02-APR-14

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. WALTER RYLAND BYARS, JR.
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10 WHEREAS, it is with an overwhelming sense of loss
11 that we mourn the death of Mr. Walter Ryland Byars, Jr., of
12 Montgomery, Alabama, on January 23, 2014, at the age of 85
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, a native of Birmingham, he received his
15 Bachelor of Science Degree in Commerce and Business
16 Administration in 1948, Bachelor of Laws Degree in 1952, and
17 Juris Doctor Degree in 1969, all from The University of
18 Alabama, where he became an active member of Sigma Chi
19 Fraternity and served with dedication over the years in many
20 capacities, receiving the first Lifetime Service Award of Iota
21 Iota Chapter and selected a Significant Sig by Sigma Chi
22 International in 2012; and

23 WHEREAS, he served with distinction in the United
24 States Navy from being commissioned an Ensign in 1948 until
25 his honorable discharge with the rank of Lieutenant in October
26 1966; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Byars actively practiced law for more
2 than 60 years, commencing in Troy in 1953, then joining the
3 Legal Department of Southern Bell in Atlanta and Birmingham,
4 and reentering private practice in 1968 in Montgomery with the
5 law firm of Steiner Crum and Baker, later Steiner Crum and
6 Byars; he was also the first Board Chairman of AlaTrust,
7 Incorporated; and

8 WHEREAS, for more than three decades, he served the
9 Alabama Wholesale Beer Association with knowledge and
10 foresight, providing his wisdom to the industry; and

11 WHEREAS, among his roles of professional leadership,
12 he was President of the Pike County and Montgomery County Bar
13 Associations and the Alabama State Bar, as well as Fellow and
14 President of the International Society of Barristers, and
15 Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the Alabama
16 Law Institute, and the American Bar Foundation; and

17 WHEREAS, from 2002 until January 2014, he served the
18 City of Montgomery, initially as City Attorney and later as
19 Chief Legal Advisor; and

20 WHEREAS, survivors include his wife of 63 years,
21 Mildred "Mickey" Rhodes Byars; daughters, Debra B. Patterson
22 (David) and Rebecca B. Pradat; sons, Walter Ryland Byars, III
23 (Teresa) and John Baxter Byars; grandchildren, Erin Whaley
24 (Seth), Olivia Latham-Byars, Jonathan Byars, Meredith Byars,
25 Parker Pradat, Lucie Pradat, Gunn Pradat, and Adair Byars; two
26 non-blood brothers, Alex W. Newton and Robert G. Esdale, Sr.;
27 and family friend and caregiver, Celeste Crenshaw; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Byars was a man of integrity who loved
2 the law and contributed substantially to the State of Alabama
3 in many capacities; although his presence will be missed, his
4 legacy will endure and his memory will be cherished in the
5 hearts of those who were fortunate to know him; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. Walter Ryland
8 Byars, Jr., is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution
9 is offered in highest tribute to his life and with heartfelt
10 sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many.