

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

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. WALTER RYLAND BYARS, JR.  
9

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

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

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

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

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

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