

1 SJR29

2 174271-1

3 By Senators Pittman, Marsh, Waggoner, Melson, Reed, Smith,
4 Orr, Ward, Shelnutt, Blackwell, Glover, Hightower, Livingston,
5 Bussman, Holtzclaw, Allen, Holley, McClendon, Whatley, Stutts,
6 Smitherman, Beasley, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Dial and Albritton

7 RFD:

8 First Read: 17-FEB-16

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
9 ANTONIN GREGORY SCALIA.

10
11 WHEREAS, with utmost reverence and respect, we mourn
12 the loss of one of the greatest legal minds of our era and a
13 dominant figure of the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Antonin
14 Gregory Scalia, who passed away February 13, 2016; and

15 WHEREAS, Justice Scalia's life journey began on
16 March 11, 1936, in Trenton, New Jersey, as the only child of
17 Salvadore Eugene and Catherine Panaro Scalia; he grew up in
18 the neighborhood of Queens in New York City and was an
19 accomplished student at the public elementary school he
20 attended; he subsequently excelled at Xavier High School in
21 Manhattan, a military school operated by the Jesuit order of
22 the Catholic Church; and

23 WHEREAS, graduating with his Bachelor's Degree in
24 History as valedictorian and summa cum laude from Georgetown
25 University, Justice Scalia obtained his Juris Doctorate from
26 Harvard Law School; he embarked upon his distinguished legal
27 career in private practice in 1961; with a desire to teach, he

1 shared his love and passion for jurisprudence as a professor
2 at the University of Virginia Law School and eventually the
3 University of Chicago, where he was one of the first faculty
4 advisors of the fledgling Federalist Society; and

5 WHEREAS, following Justice Scalia's service in the
6 Nixon and Ford administrations, President Ronald Reagan
7 recognized his intellect and pragmatism and appointed him as
8 judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District
9 of Columbia Circuit in 1982; thereafter, President Reagan
10 appointed him to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986 and he was
11 unanimously confirmed by the Senate as the first
12 Italian-American Supreme Court Justice; and

13 WHEREAS, quickly establishing himself as the anchor
14 of the court's conservative majority, Justice Scalia upheld
15 the highest standards of ethics and unabashedly adhered to a
16 set of steadfast core values and beliefs while administering
17 the law with the utmost honesty, fairness, and integrity; and

18 WHEREAS, Justice Scalia was a staunch advocate of
19 the judicial philosophy of originalism which stipulates that
20 the Constitution should be interpreted according to the
21 primary intent of its ratifiers in order to protect the basic
22 fundamental rights of United States citizens; and

23 WHEREAS, from examination of the breadth of the
24 Second Amendment to sympathy for states' rights, for almost
25 three decades, Justice Scalia's eloquent, analytical opinions
26 on major social and legal issues, as well as his barbed, witty

1 dissents in seminal cases before the highest Court in the land
2 continue to shape jurisprudence in America; and

3 WHEREAS, the United States has lost a valuable
4 member of the Judiciary; although his formidable presence will
5 be greatly missed, his legacy remains forever etched not only
6 in the annals of case law, but in the cornerstone of justice
7 itself; now therefore,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
9 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That while grieving the death of
10 Justice Antonin Gregory Scalia, we are extremely grateful for
11 his contributions to this nation and state, and we offer this
12 resolution in highest tribute to his inspiring legacy.