

1 HR228  
2 176328-1  
3 By Representative Ford  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 05-APR-16

8 CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. BUFORD L.  
9 COPELAND.

10  
11 WHEREAS, with utmost reverence and respect, we  
12 uplift the life and legacy of Mr. Buford L. Copeland of  
13 Gadsden, Alabama, who passed away March 25, 2016, at 97 years  
14 of age; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Copeland was a 1936 graduate of Etowah  
19 High School and a 1942 graduate of The University of Alabama  
20 Law School; he was a faithful and devoted 70-year member of  
21 East Gadsden Baptist Church, where he taught the men's Sunday  
22 School Class; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Copeland served as a civilian flight  
24 instructor in 1944 as a pilot in the Air Force Transport  
25 Command in the South Pacific; he returned to Gadsden and  
26 opened the law practice known as Copeland and Copeland in

1 1951, where he practiced until his retirement in 1995; he also  
2 served on the Board of Trustees at Gadsden Regional Medical  
3 Center; and

4 WHEREAS, survivors include his children, Recee  
5 (Larry) Bledsoe, Anita (Roger) Laney, and Keith (Susan)  
6 Copeland; grandchildren, Kristy (Tony) LaRue, Holly (Merril)  
7 Guice, Matthew (Julie) Laney, and Megan Laney;  
8 great-grandchildren, Hannah, Rebecca, and Madison LaRue,  
9 Caleb, Laura Grace, Benjamin, and Isabel Guice, and Sophie and  
10 Emma Laney; siblings, Wayne Copeland, Melba Jane Bailey, and  
11 June McCurley; and niece, Janice (Art) Middleton; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Copeland was a valued member of the  
13 community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory  
14 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were  
15 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
17 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of  
18 Mr. Buford L. Copeland, we are extremely grateful for his  
19 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute  
20 to his inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to  
21 his family and friends.