

1 HJR73  
2 182742-2  
3 By Representative Shedd  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 23-FEB-17

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 MOURNING THE DEATH OF THOMAS EDWIN DRAKE.  
4

5 WHEREAS, we deeply regret and are greatly saddened  
6 to learn of the death of Thomas "Tom" Edwin Drake of Cullman,  
7 Alabama, on February 2, 2017, at 86 years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, the passing of Thomas "Tom" Edwin Drake  
9 leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends,  
10 and the entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

11 WHEREAS, born in Morgan County on December 5, 1930,  
12 he was educated in Cullman County; he and his family made  
13 their home in Vinemont, Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, Tom Drake excelled in sports, obtaining an  
15 athletic scholarship to the University of Tennessee at  
16 Chattanooga, where he wrestled and played football for the  
17 Chattanooga Mocs and was drafted to play professionally for  
18 the Pittsburgh Steelers; and

19 WHEREAS, following an honorable discharge from the  
20 United States Army, Mr. Drake he went on to become a  
21 professional wrestler, head wrestling coach at The University  
22 of Alabama and a member of the athletic staff under Coach Paul  
23 "Bear" Bryant; and

1           WHEREAS, Tom Drake received his law degree from The  
2           University of Alabama and practiced law in Cullman for more  
3           than 50 years; and

4           WHEREAS, he represented the Cullman area for 32  
5           years in the Alabama House of Representatives, winning his  
6           first election in 1960 while still in law school; and

7           WHEREAS, Tom Drake served in the House for nine  
8           terms, was Speaker of the House twice, and was floor leader  
9           for Governors George Wallace, Lurleen Wallace, Albert Brewer,  
10          Fob James, Guy Hunt, and Jim Folsom, Jr.; and

11          WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the development of  
12          Wallace State Community College in Hanceville; the coliseum  
13          bears his name and the baseball field, his wife's, Christine;  
14          and

15          WHEREAS, Tom Drake was preceded in death by his  
16          parents and his wife of 56 years, Christine McKoy Drake, also  
17          an attorney, stateswoman, and former member of the Alabama  
18          Board of Education; and

19          WHEREAS, survivors include his sons Thomas Edwin  
20          Drake II (Kimberly) and G. Whit Drake (Katie); daughters Mary  
21          Drake Pate and Christy Lee Drake Lowe; and seven  
22          grandchildren; and

23          WHEREAS, Thomas Edwin Drake was a valued member of  
24          the community; although his presence is greatly missed, his

1       memory is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who  
2       were fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

3               BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4       HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That while grieving the death of  
5       Thomas "Tom" Edwin Drake, we are extremely grateful for his  
6       abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute  
7       to his inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to  
8       his family and friends.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was adopted by the House 02-MAR-17.

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

Senate

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15-MAR-17

Adopted