

1 HR304
2 201522-1
3 By Representative Whorton
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 30-MAY-19

DESIGNATING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 SHROUD AWARD.

WHEREAS, once again it is time for the Shroud Award, a unique sine die custom of the Alabama House of Representatives in which the deadest bill of the session is recognized. It is appropriate to begin with a brief history lesson for our new representatives. The Shroud Award was the 1979 creation of a former member of this body who, as a mortician, believed the deadest bill of the session was worthy of a high profile public burial. This is the 41st presentation of this one of a kind sine die tradition. The sponsor of the deadest bill receives the Shroud, the somber suit entombed in a cardboard box. As you see, the Clerk does not blow his budget on fancy props.

Among our current members, Representatives Carns, Rogers, R. Wood, Jackson, McCutcheon, Nordgren, Martin, Rowe, Poole, and Whorton have received this dubious distinction. Not a bunch of back benchers, these one time political outcasts have gone on to lead productive legislative lives.

1 The ceremony is intended to instill a sense of
2 goodwill and fellowship among the members after a long and
3 difficult session. If your name is called, be a good sport and
4 chuckle along. If for no other reason, do it for the reading
5 clerk. After all, there are only two reasons he hangs around
6 this place: for the laughs he gets on Shroud day; and for his
7 annual whiff of K. L. Brown's embalming fluid. After hearing
8 this resolution, we can't promise that you will be Dancing In
9 The Streets, like our favorite duo, Martha and Margie,
10 Representative Wilcox, YOU GO GIRL! But we do hope members
11 will depart today with a smile.

12 Custom calls for the prior year's winner, with input
13 from other recipients, to designate the next recipient. We
14 call it "pay back time." Representative Whorton, still BEAMING
15 from last year's designation, has done an ENLIGHTENING job of
16 shining his headlights on potential candidates. Let's take a
17 look at who has been spot-lighted as runners-up.

18 House Bill 449 by Representative Jeremy Gray,
19 authorizing local boards of education to offer yoga to
20 students. A fleet defensive back and team captain at North
21 Carolina State, who played pro ball with the Saskatchewan
22 Roughriders, it was no STRETCH for the young sports management
23 guru to sponsor this bill. He has traveled the country
24 training folks in health, nutrition, and holistic wellness
25 through yoga and weight training. Of course, a few folks
26 around here would not know holistic wellness if it jumped out
27 of their Chris's hot dog and bit them on the nose. Games

1 against ACC rivals were mere warm-up drills compared to lining
2 up against some of the more unusual elements of Alabama's
3 educational community. Apparently, back in the day, yoga was
4 perceived as a foreign menace which the State Board of
5 Education prohibited by regulation. You could say yoga had
6 these folks all BENT OUT OF SHAPE. GRAY'S MATTER overrode that
7 regulation and allowed the teaching of yoga and its many
8 benefits as an elective course. Never making it to the House
9 floor, the Rookie Rep's recommendation ended up being a mere
10 exercise in futility. Perhaps, to relieve the stress of
11 defeat, the Legislator from Lee should unroll his mat, strike
12 a pose, and just say "Ommmmmm." But not too loudly, as mantras
13 and chants are expressly prohibited in his legislation.

14 House Bill 346 by Representative Nathaniel
15 Ledbetter, prohibiting local governing bodies from banning
16 plastic grocery bags, cups, bottles, and similar types of
17 packaging, also known as the plastic bag ban ban. It was
18 reported that this pig in a poke was promoted by conservative
19 think tankers way up the food chain whose usual respect for
20 home rule was thrown out with the rest of the trash littering
21 our rivers, lakes, and highways. Proponents called for
22 uniformity at the state level, while opponents argued the
23 effort was major government overreach. After the BIR was lost
24 on a similar Senate bill, no one wanted to be left holding
25 this bag. Some offered a different approach. Every Alabamian
26 should take a plastic bag and pick up their own mess. While

1 this offering could not have been LED BETTER, passage clearly
2 was never in the bag.

3 Senate Bill 220, handled by Representative Steve
4 Clouse, proposing a paper lottery. Technically, a Senate Bill
5 is not eligible to win the Shroud Award. We think we just
6 heard Mr. Chairman say thank goodness for technicalities. Some
7 claimed it was called a paper lottery because it folded so
8 easily. Others argued it needed to be cut out. While others
9 maintained it was just tear-able. This issue had more sides
10 than a guy who wins the lottery suddenly has long lost
11 relatives. The sponsor discovered that those who were for were
12 now against; and those who were against were now for. Indeed,
13 the Ozark Oddsmaker saw his vote count dissolve quicker than
14 Alabama-made Blue Bell ice cream on a scorchingly hot May
15 afternoon. When it came time to unlock the machines, there was
16 no way to tell how the Power Ball was going to bounce. It
17 didn't take long to see it take a high hop back into Georgia
18 and other neighboring states. BET THE HOUSE CLOUSE came up a
19 pick six short. As a result, you can scratch off the lottery
20 question from the March Presidential Primary ballot. With no
21 lottery to vote on and paying a few more pennies at the pump,
22 we suspect the drive to the state line to play a sure winner
23 just got a little longer and a lot angrier.

24 WHEREAS, having identified those offerings that were
25 notable, just not notable enough to win the Shroud, we turn
26 our high beams on the winner. Allow us to give a few clues so
27 that the suspense may build. This bill:

1 Would have observers saying what a WASTE.

2 Would easily fail the SMELL TEST.

3 Would show it was much more than just a BUNCH OF
4 MANURE.

5 And would show on a scale of 1 to 10, this was a
6 SOLID NUMBER 2.

7 Think you know? Of course you DO DOO. The winner of
8 the 2019 Shroud Award is House Bill 193 regulating the use of
9 biosolid fertilizer composed of treated human sewage.

10 Holy Human Poop! What the?! expletive deleted No
11 wonder our summer tomatoes don't taste like they used too.
12 Watch out, that may not be dirt on your baked potato. The
13 refusal to consider the issue of potty on your produce caused
14 supporters to raise a stink. They refused to be the Butt of
15 this joke. The sponsor, who successfully gained House passage
16 of a similar local constitutional amendment, couldn't get any
17 traction for his state-wide offering. We surmise the fields
18 were just too SLIPPERY. Then, when the Senate would not allow
19 movement on his local bill, the primary proponent let loose.
20 It was too bad the House no longer has a wrestling ring, as
21 the Scottsboro Slammer was ready to rumble. Given the subject
22 matter, brown-nosing did not prove an effective way to win
23 votes. Apparently, neither did delivering goodie bags as desk
24 warming gifts to certain members of the Senate. Even though
25 many thought using Zip Loc bags was a thoughtful touch; after
26 all, you want to keep the contents fresh. Proving the
27 sponsor's point, opponents refused to be out standing in this

1 field. They preferred to keep their fancy shoes clean. Who can
2 blame them? IT HAPPENS. Perhaps after a session full of talk
3 about assorted anatomical attributes, the members had heard
4 enough about necessary bodily functions. The preference of
5 most was to just flush the problem away and wipe things clean.
6 Indeed, because no one wanted to touch it, this is without
7 question the deadest bill of the session; now therefore,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
9 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the winner of the 2019 Shroud
10 Award is House Bill 193 regulating the use of biosolid
11 fertilizer composed of treated human sewage. After assuring
12 the Clerk that he isn't carrying any goodie bags,
13 Representative Tommy Hanes is requested to come forward to
14 accept the symbolic shroud and our admiration for bravely
15 letting It hit the fan.