

1 SJR37  
2 205720-1  
3 By Senators Allen, Butler, Beasley, Albritton, Barfoot,  
4 Burkette, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott,  
5 Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Holley, Jones, Livingston, Marsh,  
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed, Roberts, Sanders-Fortier,  
7 Scofield, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stutts,  
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 03-MAR-20

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. JAMES IRVING HARRISON, JR.  
9

10 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
11 death of Mr. James "Jimmy" Irving Harrison, Jr., at the age of  
12 87; and

13 WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of  
14 his loving family, many friends, and the entire community,  
15 where he was highly regarded; and

16 WHEREAS, an astute businessman, Mr. Harrison  
17 developed the Tuscaloosa, Alabama, family business into the  
18 nation's second largest privately held drugstore chain, Harco,  
19 Inc.; as a result, his stores were found across Alabama,  
20 Florida, and Mississippi; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrison and his family touched the  
22 lives of many; when The University of Alabama Head Football  
23 Coach Nick Saban and his wife, Terry, arrived in Tuscaloosa,  
24 Mr. Harrison and his wife, Peggy, were among the first people  
25 to welcome them; Coach Saban noted that every member of the  
26 Harrison family gives to the community; Former University of  
27 Alabama President Robert Witt has stated that whenever there

1                   was a need in the community, Mr. Harrison would step forward  
2                   and take on the responsibility, but he would not seek acclaim;  
3                   and

4                   WHEREAS, a very talented athlete and student, Mr.  
5                   Harrison graduated from high school at the age of 16; he then  
6                   attended Baylor Prep School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for one  
7                   year; subsequently, he accepted a basketball scholarship to  
8                   The University of Alabama; determined to follow in his  
9                   father's footsteps, he transferred to Howard College, now  
10                  Samford University, where he still holds the record for most  
11                  points scored in a basketball game with 48 points; he  
12                  graduated with honors in 1956; he received honorary doctorates  
13                  from The University of Alabama and Judson College as well; and

14                  WHEREAS, due to the fast-growing success of Harco,  
15                  Inc., the business was regularly named America's Best Regional  
16                  Drug Chain in annual assessments by Chain Drug Review; in the  
17                  1980s, Mr. Harrison was named Chain Drug Store Executive of  
18                  the Decade; in 1985, he served as Chairman of the Board of the  
19                  National Association of Chain Drug Stores; Mr. Harrison  
20                  received many other distinctions over the years as well,  
21                  including being named to the Alabama Pharmacy Hall of Fame,  
22                  the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame, the Alabama  
23                  Healthcare Hall of Fame, and the Alabama Business Hall of  
24                  Fame; in addition, he received Samford University's Lifetime  
25                  Service and Distinguished Service Awards, the Citizen of the  
26                  Year Award from the Tuscaloosa Civitan Club, the Tuscaloosa  
27                  Area Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award, and the

1 Nick's Kids Lifetime Achievement Award, among others; James I.  
2 Harrison, Jr., Parkway in Tuscaloosa was named in Mr.  
3 Harrison's honor; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrison established the James I.  
5 Harrison Family Foundation, the Harrison Center for Academic  
6 Excellence at Judson College, the James I. Harrison Family  
7 Endowed Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellow, and the Caritas  
8 Community Service Award; some of his other accomplishments  
9 include being a member and past Chairman of The University of  
10 Alabama President's Cabinet, a founding member of Success by 6  
11 in Tuscaloosa County, a founding member and first President of  
12 the Alexis de Tocqueville Society Chapter United Way of West  
13 Alabama, and a member of the Mayor's Pre-K Advisory Board; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrison is survived by his beloved  
15 wife of 65 years, Peggy Harrison; children, Jim, III, Cissy,  
16 Ronnie, Cheri, and Kie; and 15 grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
18 missed, the memory of Mr. Harrison will be cherished in the  
19 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. James "Jimmy"  
22 Irving Harrison, Jr., is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
23 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with  
24 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by  
25 many.