

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Harrison and his family touched the lives of many; when The University of Alabama Head Football Coach Nick Saban and his wife, Terry, arrived in Tuscaloosa, Mr. Harrison and his wife, Peggy, were among the first people to welcome them; Coach Saban noted that every member of the Harrison family gives to the community; Former University of 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.