

1 HJR22
2 216550-1
3 By Representative Mooney
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 01-FEB-22

MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. FRANK MOREHEAD BARKER, JR.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on December 27, 2021, of Dr. Frank Morehead Barker, Jr. at the age of 89; 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, Dr. Barker was born on January 31, 1932, to Frank M. Barker, Sr. and Annie Lee Barker; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Ramsey High School in 1949, Dr. Barker attended Auburn University on a Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps Scholarship, where he played on the tennis team; after graduating college with an engineering degree, he became a Navy Jet Fighter Pilot and served during the Korean War; during his time in the Navy, he also flew with the Blue Angels as their official photographer; after a few close calls while flying off of aircraft carriers, Dr. Barker believed that God was trying to get his attention; in an effort to amend his ways, he decided to attend seminary,

1 during which time he began pastoring a small church in Oxford,
2 Alabama, and for the first time, he began to question what it
3 truly meant to be a Christian; after an Air Force chaplain
4 explained that salvation was by grace, Dr. Barker's life was
5 completely transformed, and from that day forward, he lived to
6 share that news with others; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1960, Dr. Barker returned to Birmingham,
8 Alabama, to start Briarwood Church in a storefront in Cahaba
9 Heights; in 1961, he and Barbara Brown Barker were married in
10 the storefront; over the next 39 years, Dr. Barker and his
11 wife served side by side, watching God multiply their church
12 and magnify Himself through their ministry; fueled by the
13 vision of "reaching Birmingham to reach the world for Christ,"
14 Dr. Barker oversaw the foundation of Briarwood Christian
15 School, Birmingham Theological Seminary, Campus Outreach,
16 Briarwood Ballet, Camp Briarwood, and numerous ministries for
17 business and medical professionals; in 1973, he was
18 instrumental in the formation of a new denomination, the
19 Presbyterian Church in America, a conservative break from the
20 mainline Presbyterian Church of the United States of America;
21 until his final breath, Dr. Barker faithfully served the Lord
22 and taught His Word; and

23 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents;
24 and his sister, Minnie Lee Barker Livingston; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Barker is survived by his children,
26 Anita Barnes (Billy), Frank Barker, III (Pam), and Peggy
27 Townes (Tim); 14 grandchildren; nine, plus two on the way,

1 great-grandchildren; and the thousands of people who know
2 Jesus because of his life; and

3 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
4 missed, the memory of Dr. Barker will be cherished in the
5 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Dr. Frank
8 Morehead Barker, Jr. is recorded with deep sadness, and this
9 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with
10 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
11 many.