

1 SJR57
2 218194-1
3 By Senators Figures, Smitherman, Beasley, Albritton, Allen,
4 Barfoot, Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn,
5 Elliott, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Holley, Jones, Livingston,
6 Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed, Roberts,
7 Sanders-Fortier, Scofield, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 01-MAR-22

8 NAMING A PORTION OF THE INTERSTATE 165 CORRIDOR
9 CONNECTING INTERSTATE 10 TO INTERSTATE 65 IN HONOR OF MICHAEL
10 A. FIGURES.

11
12 WHEREAS, Senator Michael A. Figures was born in
13 Mobile, Alabama, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree
14 from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Figures was one of the first three
16 African Americans to earn his Juris Doctorate from The
17 University of Alabama School of Law; and

18 WHEREAS, after establishing his own practice,
19 Senator Figures had a successful legal career taking up the
20 cause of labor unions and small businesses and serving as
21 co-counsel with the Southern Poverty Law Center in winning a
22 major victory against the United Klans of America; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1978, Senator Figures became the first
24 African American Senator representing Mobile County in the
25 State House; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Figures held his seat for 18 years,
27 during which time he was voted "Outstanding Legislator" and

elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate, making him the highest ranking African American in state government; and

WHEREAS, Senator Figures continued through his tenure to advocate for the rights of those less privileged, and his "Helping Schools" tag campaign generates over \$600,000 annually for local schools; and

WHEREAS, Senator Figures was posthumously inducted into the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Senator Figures was a loving and dedicated husband and father; and

WHEREAS, Senator Michael A. Figures was a trailblazer in Alabama's legal sphere and State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, it is both appropriate and desirable to honor Senator Figures, who made the lives of his fellow citizens better, and whose tireless and dedicated public service to Mobile County and the State of Alabama left a lasting impact that will be remembered; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the portion of the Interstate 165 corridor connecting Interstate 10 to Interstate 65 in Mobile County be named the Michael A. Figures Freeway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the appropriate officials place and maintain signs or markers as provided in this resolution.