

1 HJR121
2 218487-1
3 By Representative Givan
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 03-MAR-22

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. LIONEL JAMES.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on February 25, 2022, of former Auburn University and San Diego Chargers running back, Mr. Lionel "Little Train" James at the age of 59; 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, Mr. James was born on May 25, 1962; and

WHEREAS, at only 5-feet and 6-inches tall, Mr. James made a name for himself, even though he had a small stature; lovingly known by many as "Little Train," Mr. James always brought talent, skill, and determination to the football field; he played seven seasons with the Chargers after being drafted in the fifth round in 1984; in 1985, he was named Most Valuable Player after setting an NFL record with 2,535 all-purpose yards after leading the Chargers in rushing, receiving, and kickoff and punt return yardage; that season, he led the AFC in receptions with 86 while setting the NFL

1 record for receiving yards by a running back with 1,027; in
2 2006, he was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame;
3 some of his other accomplishments throughout the years
4 included leading the Auburn University Tigers as their team
5 captain to their first Southeastern Conference Championship
6 win in 26 years in 1983; becoming one of the first signature
7 players of the Pat Dye era; and creating a career highlight
8 by, while with the Chargers, capping his 345-yard day (51
9 rushing yards, 168 receiving, and 126 yards on kickoff
10 returns) with a 17-yard touchdown run in overtime for a 40-34
11 victory over the then-L.A. Raiders, accounting for more
12 all-purpose yards that day than all but one player in NFL or
13 AFL history ever had before; after his NFL career, he returned
14 to Auburn University and graduated with a math degree in 1989;
15 he coached tight ends on Terry Bowden's Auburn University
16 staff from 1996 to 1997; and

17 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
18 missed, the memory of Mr. James will be cherished in the
19 hearts of all who knew and loved him; he touched many lives,
20 and the great legacy that he created will continue to live on;
21 now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of former Auburn
24 University and San Diego Chargers running back, Mr. Lionel
25 "Little Train" James, is recorded with deep sadness, and this
26 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with

1 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
2 many.