

SJR81 INTRODUCED



1 TS4N19-1

2 By Senators Roberts, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,
3 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,
4 Coleman-Madison, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher,
5 Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed,
6 Scofield, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,
7 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

8 RFD:

9 First Read: 23-May-23

10 2023 Regular Session



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4 SJR CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PASTOR DR. HARRY L. REEDER
5 III.

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7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
8 untimely death of Pastor Dr. Harry L. Reeder III at the age
9 of 75 on May 18, 2023; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Pastor Dr. Reeder was the beloved Senior
14 Pastor of Briarwood Presbyterian Church for 24 years; he
15 received a call from the Lord to serve in the capacity in
16 September 1999; during his distinguished pastorship, he
17 brought more than 4,000 church members together in
18 fellowship and worship as he passionately shared the Word of
19 God, encouraged others, and blessed lives; and

20 WHEREAS, after being united in holy matrimony with
21 Cindy, in 1969, Pastor Dr. Reeder selflessly withdrew from
22 East Carolina University (ECU) in order to allow his wife to
23 finish her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Chemistry at The
24 University of North Carolina at Charlotte; that same year,
25 he was called by the Gospel of Grace in Jesus Christ to a
26 personal relationship with the risen Savior; following his
27 wife's college graduation, Pastor Dr. Reeder returned to
28 ECU, however, after responding to God's call in his life to

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29 the Gospel ministry, he left ECU and finished his
30 undergraduate work at Covenant College, where he graduated
31 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Bible in 1974;
32 he then attended Tennessee Temple Seminary part-time while
33 serving an Independent Bible Church as a student pastor; due
34 to growing convictions in certain areas of theology and
35 ecclesiology, he resigned his charge in Chattanooga and went
36 into a Pastorate of the Presbyterian Church in America in
37 Miami, Florida, at Pinelands Presbyterian Church, while
38 completing a Master of Divinity Degree with Westminster
39 Seminary through the Florida Theological Center; during his
40 three-year pastorate, Pinelands Presbyterian Church enjoyed
41 the blessing of God's sovereign grace and grew from an
42 attendance of 50 to 400; and

43 WHEREAS, in February 1983, Pastor Dr. Reeder was
44 called to Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church as its
45 founding Pastor; the ministry began with 38 committed
46 members and in 17 years, attendance grew to over 3,000
47 during the Lord's Day morning worship services and a number
48 of daughter churches being planted; the Lord also brought
49 into existence a growing Bible teaching radio ministry, "In
50 Perspective", and Pastor Dr. Reeder had a 10-minute daily
51 radio/podcast program, "Today in Perspective", as well as a
52 five-minute devotional, "Fresh Bread"; additionally, he was
53 the author of numerous published works, such as "The
54 Leadership Dynamic" and "From Embers to a Flame - How God
55 Can Revitalize Your Church" with Presbyterian and Reformed
56 Publishing Company; he contributed a chapter in the book,



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57 "John Calvin: A Heart for Devotion, Doctrine, and Doxology"
58 on the life of John Calvin as a preacher for Ligonier
59 Ministries to honor his 50th birthday; and he contributed a
60 chapter, "Isis in the USA", in the "Statism II" book by
61 Fortress Books; and

62 WHEREAS, Pastor Dr. Reeder was devoted to the
63 ministry of Church Revitalization, hosting multiple Embers
64 to a Flame Conferences both nationally and internationally
65 each year; he completed his doctoral dissertation on The
66 Biblical Paradigm of Church Revitalization and received his
67 Doctor of Ministry Degree from Reformed Theological Seminary
68 in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he served as adjunct
69 faculty member while holding the same status at Birmingham
70 Theological Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama, and at
71 Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he
72 served on the Board of Trustees; and

73 WHEREAS, Pastor Dr. Reeder is survived by his wife;
74 children, Jennifer Hay (Philip), Harry Reeder IV (Angie),
75 and Abigail Leib (Ryan); and grandchildren, Brianna Toomer,
76 C.J. Toomer, Mack Toomer, Matthias Leib, Taylor Leib,
77 Mitchell Elizabeth Leib, Virginia Turpin, Winn Turpin, Anna
78 Grace Hay, and Kathryn Barrett Hay; and

79 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
80 missed, the memory of Pastor Dr. Reeder will be cherished in
81 the hearts of all who knew and loved him; the beautiful
82 legacy that he created will surely continue; now therefore,

83 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
84 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Pastor Dr.

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85 Harry L. Reeder III is recorded with deep sadness, and this
86 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with
87 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
88 many.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Romans 8:35-39 states,
90 "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will
91 tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or
92 nakedness, or danger, or sword?...But in all these things we
93 overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am
94 convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
95 principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor
96 powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing
97 will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in
98 Christ Jesus our Lord."