SJR10

5IQH6M3-1

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

RFD:

First Read: 07-Feb-24

SJR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JUDGE JOHN LAWRENCE CARROLL.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on August 14, 2023, of United States Marine Corps Veteran, Judge John Lawrence Carroll, of Birmingham, Alabama, at the age of 79; his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll grew up in Washington, D.C., and attended Gonzaga High School; in 1965, he graduated from Tufts University and entered the United States Marine Corps; he served as a Marine Flight Officer during the Vietnam War and flew 230 combat missions in an A-6A Intruder as a Bombardier Navigator with Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 242; his call sign was "Zard"; upon returning from Vietnam, he was stationed at Cherry Point in North Carolina, where he met and married his beloved wife, Susan; and

WHEREAS, he then matriculated to Samford University's Cumberland School of Law and graduated magna cum laude in 1974; in 1975, he received his Masters of Law (LLM) from Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll next moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where he served as the Legal Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center until 1984; during that time, he

handled civil rights cases, class actions, and various criminal matters; he represented clients on death row, and he twice argued before the Supreme Court of the United States; and

WHEREAS, he moved to Macon, Georgia, to teach as a Professor of Law at Mercer University School of Law; in 1986, he returned to Montgomery to accept an appointment as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Alabama; he served in that capacity for 14 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Judge Carroll relocated to Birmingham, Alabama, to become Dean of his alma mater, Cumberland School of Law; under his tenure, the law school returned to an earlier focus on trial advocacy and improved their national ranking; Judge Carroll was beloved by the Samford family as a colleague, friend, and mentor; upon leaving his position as Dean after 13 years, he returned to the classroom until his retirement in 2022; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, Judge Carroll received many honors; some of the dearest to him included selection as a Community Hero Olympic Torch Bearer in 1996; appointment by Chief Justice William Rehnquist of the Supreme Court of the United States to serve on the Judicial Conference's Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; receipt of the 2011 Chief Justice of Alabama's Professionalism Award; receipt of an Award of Merit in 2014 from the Alabama State Bar Association for outstanding and constructive service to the legal profession; receipt of the 2017 Alabama Appleseed

Brewer/Torbert Public Service Award; and receipt of the 2018 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Eleventh Circuit; and

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll was a member of and chaired the Alabama Law Institute statute drafting committees, providing invaluable insight on various legislative projects; and

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll was a lifelong Catholic, and he loved teaching and mentoring; he was also an athlete and an avid sports fan; he competed in triathlons well into his seventies, and he always seemed younger than his years; he loved reading, being outdoors, watching the Atlanta Braves, listening to the Rolling Stones, eating spicy food, and drinking red wine; and

WHEREAS, Judge John Lawrence Carroll is survived by his wife of 53 years, Susan Gaskins Carroll; daughter, Catherine Carroll Sanders (William Parker Sanders); grandsons, States Carroll Sanders and Forrest Weddell Sanders; and a host of other much loved family and friends; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That although his presence will be greatly missed, the memory of Judge John Lawrence Carroll will be cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved him; his death is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute to his life and service to others, along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many.