SJR19

S6CI758-1

By Senators 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, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

RFD: RULES

First Read: 21-Feb-24

SJR___ CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM DUDLEY MELTON.

WHEREAS, it is with heavy hearts that we recognize the passing of William Dudley Melton of Evergreen, Alabama, whose departure on October 10, 2023, leaves a legacy of unwavering commitment to his family, community, and profession; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton, affectionately known as Billy, was born in 1943 to loving parents, Thomas Plowden Melton, Jr. and Eulynne Brantley Melton; he was a descendant of the earliest pioneer families who settled western Butler and eastern Wilcox Counties in the community of Friendship, which later became Pine Apple, Alabama; he was a lifelong hobby historian and served as Director of the Alabama Historical Society, as well as a member of the boards of the Wilcox County Historical Society, the Butler County Historical and Genealogical Society, the Alabama Heritage Foundation, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Alabama Genealogical Society, and First Families of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, as an Evergreen High School student, Class of 1961, Billy lettered in three sports and was designated an All-State football player; he was an honor student, President of his senior class, State President of the

Alabama Beta Clubs, and Lieutenant Governor of Boy's State and Attorney General of Boy's Nation, both of which are programs of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton was awarded a football scholarship from Auburn University and played on the 1961 freshman team; he was a member of Squires, a men's sophomore honor fraternity, and the Nu Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order; he was a life member of the Auburn Alumni Association following his graduation in 1964; he entered The University of Alabama School of Law in 1963, where he served as President of the student bar association; he graduated in 1966 and was admitted to the Alabama State Bar that same year; he accepted a position in the Office of the Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, also in 1966, Billy Melton won the Democratic Primary and was elected to Place 2 of District 34 in the Alabama House of Representatives; he served on the House Judiciary and Inter-Governmental Committees; he did not seek re-election and was nominated by the State Democratic Committee to fill a vacancy in the Alabama Senate, District 19, in 1973; he served on the Senate Judiciary and Insurance Committees; and he supported the Judicial Article; after fulfilling his term, he returned to the courtroom, became an AV Bar Register lawyer by 39 years of age, and served as a trial lawyer for nearly 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton served on numerous professional and community boards of directors, including leadership

roles as Chairperson, Supreme Court Liaison Committee, and Vice President, Member, and Chairman, Alabama Board of Disciplinary Appeals; he also made an impact through his service to Alabama's judicial system; he served as Bar Commissioner, 35th Judicial Circuit, from 1986-1996, and as a Judge on the Alabama Court of the Judiciary for many years; along with being licensed to practice in the State of Alabama, he was licensed in the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Court; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton continued to support the students and faculty of The University of Alabama School of Law throughout his life; he received the 2007 Sam W. Pipes Farrah Law Alumni Society Award; served as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Farrah Law Society; and served as a member of the Board of Directors, Secretary, Vice President, and President of The University of Alabama School of Law Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Billy Melton cherished his family and the Lord above all else; he was a devoted member of the Evergreen Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School and served as a Deacon; he generously gave of his time and talent to co-author and edit "The History of The Evergreen Baptist Church" having already authored "Uninsured Motorist Coverage: A Significant Decision" in The Alabama Lawyer and served on the editorial boards of Alabama Trial Lawyers Journal and The Alabama Lawyer; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of William Dudley Melton, an extraordinary individual whose life exemplified dedication, integrity, and kindness, and we extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends as they grieve his loss.