HJR34

8B8ZF2F-2

By Representatives Shedd, Harbison

RFD: RULES

First Read: 13-Feb-24

MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND GREGG HODGES.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on February 5, 2024, of United States Veteran Raymond Gregg Hodges of Cullman, Alabama, at the age of 81; his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, born in New Hope, Alabama, on November 15, 1942, Gregg was the only child of Leota and Raymond Hodges; they lived in Albertville for most of his young life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hodges received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science and a Master of Arts Degree in Extension Education from Mississippi State University; he later earned his Education Specialist Degree in Education and Supervision from The University of Alabama, Gadsden Center; and

WHEREAS, Gregg Hodges served his country faithfully for four years in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and achieved the rank of Staff Sargent; he was honorably discharged in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Gregg Hodges began his extension career in Madison County, Mississippi, in 1971 as an assistant county agent for 4-H; he then served in Franklin and Etowah

Counties in Alabama in similar positions until he became the County Agent-coordinator of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service in Cullman County, where he remained for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hodges was a driving force in the development of the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center; he was also involved in the Farm-City program on state and county levels, and he was a part of the delegation that received the National Award for rural development in 1983; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, he participated in an international humanitarian project requested by Polish authorities after the removal of the Berlin Wall; while in Poland, Mr. Hodges organized the first 4-H Club and organized a Chamber of Commerce for industry in Leszno, Poland; this action opened the door to new economic development in the western corridor of Poland; and

WHEREAS, in October 1999, Gregg Hodges was listed among the Top 100 citizens of Cullman County Leaders of the 20th Century for Agricultural representation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hodges served in many other leadership roles, including Director of the Cullman Chamber of Commerce, President of the United Way, and President of Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents; he was actively involved in the Cullman County Cattleman's Association, Farmer's Federation, and the Cullman Hospice and Housing Authority; recently, he has concentrated his service with the Gideons and Cullman First Baptist Church;

and

WHEREAS, Raymond Gregg Hodges was a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ, devoted husband, loving daddy, doting Paw Paw, and dear friend; he was blessed to marry the love of his life, Marie Theresa Hodges, on February 28, 1967, and remained faithfully devoted to her even after her passing in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Gregg Hodges is survived by his three children; Tracy Thompson (Seth), David Hodges, and Aimee Reese (Dave); eight grandchildren, Will Thompson, Claire Thompson, Grace Thompson, Cooper Hodges, Katy Hodges, Luke Reese, Ruby Reese, and Hodges Reese; as well as many other beloved family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Gregg Hodges leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; 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 Raymond Gregg Hodges 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.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 20-Feb-24.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate **29-Feb-24** Adopted