HR121

QDVL155-1

By Representative Lomax

RFD:

First Read: 19-Mar-24

HR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JAMES LEE SPLAWN.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on March 5, 2024, of James Lee "Jim" Splawn, of Huntsville, Alabama, at the age of 90; his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Jim Splawn was born in Upton, Kentucky, to Annie Lancaster Splawn and Grover Willie Splawn; he graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering; and

WHEREAS, as an engineer and manager for NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, in Huntsville, Alabama, from 1961-1984, Jim Splawn served in positions of significance on the Saturn I, Saturn V, Apollo, Skylab, and Space Shuttle Programs; he was co-founder of the concept for stimulating weightlessness of space by working below the surface of water, known as "Neutral Buoyancy Simulation"; he was also responsible for noteworthy contributions to the development of the Space Shuttle Main Engine, the first reusable rocket engine for manned space flight; he retired from NASA in 1984 after 23 remarkable years of excellence; and

WHEREAS, following his NASA career, Jim Splawn was a successful small business entrepreneur, including owner of

SpaceCo Electric; after selling SpaceCo in 1988, he returned to the Aerospace & Defense industry at Boeing for 21 years in the Business Development capacity for evolving space technologies into air and missile defense applications for the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, Jim was involved in many community and civic organizations, including the Rotary Club, Gideons International, Huntsville Solid Waste Authority, Huntsville Aerospace Marketing Association, Marshall Retiree Association, Association of the United States Army, and the Huntsville Board of Zoning Adjustments; he was also an active member of First Baptist Church since 1961; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Splawn was blessed to be married to the love of his life, Jo Ann Helton Splawn, for 68 years; he freely admitted that none of his accomplishments would be possible without her love, support, and constant encouragement; and

WHEREAS, James Lee Splawn is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Roland Splawn; survivors include his wife; children, Mike Splawn (Kelly), Le-Ann Little (Jeff), and Mark Splawn (Tammy); grandchildren, Samuel Splawn, Julia Splawn, Clair Woodard (Isaac), Lauren Collins (Stephen), JoAnna Feldewerth (Andrew), Rachel Clyburn (James), Ben Splawn (fiancé Hannah Jones), and Hannah Perez (Danny); sisters, Patricia McNatt (Fred) and Sibyl Carmichael (Tommy); as well as eight great-grandchildren and a host of much loved extended family and friends; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That although his presence will be greatly missed, the memory of James Lee Splawn 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.