SJR40

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By Senators Allen, Albritton, 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:

First Read: 21-Mar-24

SJR___ COMMENDING COACH ROBERT JOHN SPROWL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING HEAD COACHING CAREER WITH SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, highest commendations and congratulations are herein conveyed to "Bobby" Sprowl for his remarkable coaching career as the head baseball coach of the Shelton State Community College Buccaneers baseball team; and

WHEREAS, a Tampa, Florida, native, Coach Sprowl played baseball for The University of Alabama (UA) from 1976-1977; in 1977, he earned second team All-American and consensus All-SEC selection honors; during the 1977 season, Sprowl led the NCAA with 11.5 strikeouts per nine innings and finished the season with 118 strikeouts, which still ranks second on the UA single-season strikeout list; Sprowl was drafted in the second round of the 1977 Major League Baseball Draft by the Boston Red Sox as the 39th overall pick, making him the first Southeastern Conference (SEC) player and the eighth college player selected in the draft; and he spent eight seasons in the Major League with the Boston Red Sox, Houston Astros, and the Baltimore Orioles; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sprowl took over as the Bucs' head coach in the fall of 1985 where he made an immediate impact

leading the Bucs to 138 wins and only 45 losses in his first four seasons with the team, including back-to-back 39-win seasons in 1988 and 1989; his 1988 team also went a perfect 20-0 in Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) play, making it the only team in school history to post a perfect conference record; from 2006-2009, Coach Sprowl led the Bucs to a school record with four straight 40-win seasons; during this span, the Bucs had a combined record of 181-74 (.710) and played in a program record three straight National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) World Series; from 2007-2009, Coach Sprowl led the Bucs to the program's first win at the national tournament (2007), a runner-up finish at the national tournament (2008), a program record 49-win season (2008), and a program record of 27 conference wins (2009); and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Coach Sprowl led Shelton State back to the NJCAA World Series for the second time in three years; and, after a second-place finish in the ACCC Northern Division, Coach Sprowl's Bucs posted a 4-1 record en route to the program's second state championship in the past three seasons, blasting Wallace State-Dothan 15-3 in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sprowl was inducted into the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2009; he was named to The University of Alabama All-Century Baseball Team in 1993; he is a 5-time ACCC Coach of the Year winner; and this year, which marks his 34th season as the Bucs' head coach, Coach Sprowl will add to his legacy as he will be

inducted into the NJCAA Baseball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sprowl has built a lasting legacy as the head baseball coach with the Shelton State Community College Buccaneers; he has compiled a 1,143-701 (.613) record as head coach of the Bucs; his 1,143 wins rank seventh among active NJCAA head coaches and 20th on the all-time wins list for NJCAA baseball coaches; he is one of 11 head coaches in the State of Alabama to win 1,000 or more games; he has sent more than 250 players to four-year schools; he has had 30 players drafted in the Major League Draft, including the highest drafted junior college player in 2022, Drake Logan; he has had three former players play Major League Baseball; he has led the Bucs to six ACCC State Tournament victories; and, under Coach Sprowl's leadership, the Bucs have played in six NJCAA World Series (2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2021, and 2023); now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body highly congratulates, reveres, and honors Coach Bobby Sprowl for his legendary professional accolades; and, along with best wishes for continued success in his coaching career, we dedicate this resolution to him with the utmost respect.