

SJR119 INTRODUCED



1 SJR119

2 DG4CMTT-1

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

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 08-Apr-26



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SJR___ COMMENDING SENATOR THOMAS WAYNE BUTLER ON HIS ACCOMPLISHED CAREER OF SERVICE.

WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein conveyed to Senator Thomas Wayne "Tom" Butler in recognition of the vital role he has played in state leadership and his unwavering personal commitment to the welfare and prosperity of the residents of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time, talents, and energy to the betterment of his community and this state, as dramatically evidenced by his distinguished and lengthy service in the Alabama State Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Butler was elected in 1994 to represent the 2nd District of Alabama, encompassing eastern Limestone County and western Madison County, including the cities of Athens, Huntsville, and Madison; and

WHEREAS, prior to his tenure in the Alabama Senate, he honorably served as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives from 1982 to 1994, initially representing District 17 (1982-1983) and thereafter District 6 for the remainder of his legislative service in that chamber; and

WHEREAS, a native of Huntsville, Senator Butler is a graduate of The University of Alabama and Auburn University; a pharmacist and health underwriter by profession, he is



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29 also an active member of Optimist International, the North
30 Alabama Health Underwriters Association, and the Alabama
31 Pharmaceutical Association; and

32 WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career in both
33 the House of Representatives and the Senate, his legislative
34 accomplishments have spanned a broad spectrum of public
35 policy, including his championship of major infrastructure
36 initiatives; he played an instrumental role in securing the
37 \$92 million U.S. 72 widening project for his district and in
38 advocating for the four-laning of Alabama 53 from Huntsville
39 to the Tennessee state line; he also worked to secure \$7
40 million in funding for a replacement Saturn IB rocket at the
41 Alabama Welcome Center in Ardmore; and

42 WHEREAS, his steadfast conservative leadership has
43 helped guide Madison and Limestone Counties to new heights
44 of growth and opportunity; a true working legislator, he
45 authored and sponsored the BRAC Education Bill, which
46 brought \$175 million to local schools, and he authored the
47 legislation that enabled the City of Madison to establish
48 its own school system; he also secured funding for The
49 University of Alabama in Huntsville Applied Sciences Center
50 and the National Space Science and Technology Center; and

51 WHEREAS, a staunch advocate for Alabama's veterans,
52 Senator Butler sponsored legislation to construct state
53 veterans' nursing homes in Huntsville and Bay Minette, and
54 successfully secured funding for the Veterans Museum and
55 Archives in Athens, as well as for the Alabama Veterans'
56 Assistance Fund; and



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57 WHEREAS, drawing upon his professional expertise as a
58 pharmacist, Senator Butler authored and secured funding for
59 legislation placing automated external defibrillators (AEDs)
60 in schools, government buildings, and volunteer fire
61 departments statewide; he also sponsored "right to choose"
62 legislation to ensure patients could select their own
63 pharmacy and worked diligently to reduce the cost of
64 prescription medications for Alabama families; and

65 WHEREAS, Senator Butler served with distinction on
66 numerous House and Senate committees, including as Chair of
67 the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and as a member
68 of the Finance and Taxation, Fiscal Responsibility and
69 Economic Development, Transportation and Energy, and
70 Healthcare Committees; and

71 WHEREAS, beyond his legislative service, Senator
72 Butler has remained deeply committed to faith and community,
73 serving as an active member of University Baptist Church,
74 including as a missionary to South America; he is also
75 affiliated with Gideons International, the Alabama
76 Republican Executive Committee, the Community Free Clinic
77 Board, and the Calhoun Community College Foundation Board;
78 and

79 WHEREAS, Senator Butler readily acknowledges that
80 none of these accomplishments would have been possible
81 without the love, steadfast support, and encouragement of
82 his wife, Karen, a registered nurse; his daughter, Robin, a
83 registered nurse; and his late daughter, Jill, who
84 faithfully served as a teacher at Monrovia Elementary



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85 School; and

86 WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislature that
87 Senator Butler's legacy will endure not only in the roads
88 built, schools strengthened, and lives changed through his
89 legislative efforts, but also in the integrity, conviction,
90 and servant leadership with which he conducted himself,
91 setting a standard of principled public service that will
92 long inspire those who follow in his footsteps; now
93 therefore,

94 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
95 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognition of his
96 exemplary and devoted service to the Alabama Legislature and
97 to the people of this state, Senator Thomas Wayne Butler is
98 hereby honored and commended, and this resolution is offered
99 to him in highest tribute and deepest appreciation, with
100 sincere gratitude for a legacy defined by faith, fortitude,
101 and dedicated service to Alabama, along with best wishes as
102 he embarks upon his well-earned retirement.