

1 HJR28
2 126064-2
3 By Representatives Long, Baughn, Roberts, Johnson (W), Merrill
4 and Moore (B)
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 03-MAR-11

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. RALPH HAMMOND.

WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we receive news of the death of Mr. Ralph Hammond of Arab, Alabama, on December 10, 2010, at the age of 94 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hammond was a civic leader and a man of letters whose poetry was widely appreciated; he was twice elected mayor of Arab and served as Poet Laureate of Alabama from 1991 to 1995; his acclaimed collections of verse reflected his love of nature and unfaltering faith; and

WHEREAS, born in Big Wills Valley in Etowah County, Alabama, he served his country with honor and distinction in the United States Army as a military war correspondent during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after returning to Alabama, he attended The University of Alabama, where he worked on the staff of The Crimson White, the student newspaper; the highlights of his political career included serving as chief of staff, press secretary, and speechwriter for former Governor James E. Folsom from 1947-1950 and 1956-1959; Mr. Hammond moved to Arab in 1954 and was appointed to the United States Study Commission in 1959 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower; and

1 WHEREAS, endowed with a keen intellect and a way
2 with words, Mr. Hammond was very actively engaged in promoting
3 the reading and writing of poetry; his leadership roles
4 included serving as president of the Alabama State Poetry
5 Society and two terms as president of the National Federation
6 of State Poetry Societies; and

7 WHEREAS, among his honors and recognitions through
8 the years, he was named Arab's Outstanding Citizen in 1990,
9 was awarded a Certificate of Poetical Guidance in 1999 by the
10 National Federation of State Poetry Societies, and received an
11 Honorary Doctorate from the University of West Alabama; and

12 WHEREAS, he was the author of more than 25 books,
13 including "Personal Encounters," a memoir of his experiences
14 with William Faulkner, Pablo Picasso, T.S. Eliot, Gertrude
15 Stein, Carl Sandburg, and Ernest Hemingway, whom he met in
16 1944 while a war correspondent in London; and

17 WHEREAS, his survivors include his son, James
18 Hammond, and daughter-in-law, Joy; preceding him in death was
19 his beloved wife, Myra; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Hammond was an iconic figure in the
21 political and cultural life of the State of Alabama; although
22 his presence will be missed, his legacy will endure and his
23 memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who
24 were fortunate to know him during his long and productive
25 lifetime; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. Ralph Hammond
3 is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered
4 in highest tribute to his life along with heartfelt sympathy
5 to his family.

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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 adopted by the House 08-MAR-11.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate

24-MAR-11

Adopted