

1 HJR529  
2 161051-2  
3 By Representative Hubbard (J)  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 02-APR-14

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,  
MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. WALTER RYLAND BYARS, JR.

WHEREAS, it is with an overwhelming sense of loss that we mourn the death of Mr. Walter Ryland Byars, Jr., of Montgomery, Alabama, on January 23, 2014, at the age of 85 years; and

WHEREAS, a native of Birmingham, he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Commerce and Business Administration in 1948, Bachelor of Laws Degree in 1952, and Juris Doctor Degree in 1969, all from The University of Alabama, where he became an active member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and served with dedication over the years in many capacities, receiving the first Lifetime Service Award of Iota Iota Chapter and selected a Significant Sig by Sigma Chi International in 2012; and

WHEREAS, he served with distinction in the United States Navy from being commissioned an Ensign in 1948 until his honorable discharge with the rank of Lieutenant in October 1966; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Byars actively practiced law for more than 60 years, commencing in Troy in 1953, then joining the Legal Department of Southern Bell in Atlanta and Birmingham, and reentering private practice in 1968 in Montgomery with the

1 law firm of Steiner Crum and Baker, later Steiner Crum and  
2 Byars; he was also the first Board Chairman of AlaTrust,  
3 Incorporated; and

4 WHEREAS, for more than three decades, he served the  
5 Alabama Wholesale Beer Association with knowledge and  
6 foresight, providing his wisdom to the industry; and

7 WHEREAS, among his roles of professional leadership,  
8 he was President of the Pike County and Montgomery County Bar  
9 Associations and the Alabama State Bar, as well as Fellow and  
10 President of the International Society of Barristers, and  
11 Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the Alabama  
12 Law Institute, and the American Bar Foundation; and

13 WHEREAS, from 2002 until January 2014, he served the  
14 City of Montgomery, initially as City Attorney and later as  
15 Chief Legal Advisor; and

16 WHEREAS, survivors include his wife of 63 years,  
17 Mildred "Mickey" Rhodes Byars; daughters, Debra B. Patterson  
18 (David) and Rebecca B. Pradat; sons, Walter Ryland Byars, III  
19 (Teresa) and John Baxter Byars; grandchildren, Erin Whaley  
20 (Seth), Olivia Latham-Byars, Jonathan Byars, Meredith Byars,  
21 Parker Pradat, Lucie Pradat, Gunn Pradat, and Adair Byars; two  
22 non-blood brothers, Alex W. Newton and Robert G. Esdale, Sr.;  
23 and family friend and caregiver, Celeste Crenshaw; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Byars was a man of integrity who loved  
25 the law and contributed substantially to the State of Alabama

1 in many capacities; although his presence will be missed, his  
2 legacy will endure and his memory will be cherished in the  
3 hearts of those who were fortunate to know him; now therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
5 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Mr. Walter Ryland  
6 Byars, Jr., is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution  
7 is offered in highest tribute to his life and with heartfelt  
8 sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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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 02-APR-14.

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

Senate

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03-APR-14

Adopted