

1 HR208  
2 213257-1  
3 By Representatives Brown (K) and Estes  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 15-APR-21

MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. JESSE WHITFIELD MILES, SR.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on March 3, 2021, of Mr. Jesse "Whit" Whitfield Miles, Sr., at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miles was born on May 23, 1931, in the Crumly Chapel Community of Jefferson County, near Birmingham, Alabama, to Valter Smith Miles and Eathel Naomi Varnon Miles; and

WHEREAS, during his senior year at Minor High School, Mr. Miles became an apprentice to the late W. Theron Bell at Bell Funeral Home in Crumly Chapel; upon receiving his high school diploma in 1949, he attended John A. Gupton School of Mortuary Science and graduated in 1951; he served in the United States Army from June 1952 until June 1954 as a Supply Sergeant; in 1957, he became a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner and was a partner in Bell Funeral Home; in 1964,

1 he sold his interest in Bell Funeral Home and became an  
2 associate of Homer McGraw in Winfield, Alabama; in 1967, he  
3 obtained McGraw Brown Service Funeral Home and operated it as  
4 Miles Funeral Home for the last 54 years, with a total of 72  
5 years in funeral service; and

6 WHEREAS, very active in his community, Mr. Miles was  
7 a member of Winfield First United Methodist Church, where he  
8 served on the Board and Finance Committee; a member of the  
9 Winfield Lions Club, where he served as District Governor of  
10 Lions International; a former councilman for the City of  
11 Winfield, which was during the same time that the Winfield  
12 Community Center, city park, Northwest Alabama Regional  
13 Library, and Winfield Medical Clinic were built; former  
14 President of the Winfield Chamber of Commerce, during the same  
15 time that the first Winfield Mule Day was held; a member of  
16 the Winfield Masonic Lodge; a member of the Alabama Funeral  
17 Directors Association, where he was a former President; and  
18 chairman on the Alabama Board of Funeral Service; and

19 WHEREAS, a very generous man, Mr. Miles was a leader  
20 and a mentor to many; he always led by example, and along with  
21 always educating himself, he passionately contributed to his  
22 employees' education as well, many of whom now operate their  
23 own funeral homes or serve as managers; he enjoyed attending  
24 funeral service conventions and meetings, participating in  
25 fellowship with his peers, wood working in his shop, and  
26 gardening; and

1           WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents;  
2 wife, Elsa McGraw Miles; son, J. Whitfield Miles, Jr.; infant  
3 son, Mark Bell Miles; grandson, Garrett Miles; brothers,  
4 William "Bill" Miles and Harold "Speedy" Miles; and sister,  
5 Martha Frances Riley Fuller; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Miles is survived by his wife, Lyvonne  
7 Miles; son, Clark Miles (Tina); grandson, J. Whit Miles, III  
8 (Danielle); great-grandsons, Blaise Miles and M. Whitfield  
9 "Miles" Miles; step-children, Ed McGraw (Nella), Mary Jayne  
10 Atkinson (Bill), Carol Dickinson (Jim), and Todd Estes  
11 (Nicole); step-grandchildren, Haley Smith (Drew), Mark McGraw  
12 (Britnee), Dawn Guin (Greg), Todd Atkinson (Tina), Amanda  
13 Carmichael (Hill), Jon Mills (Greer), Wes Estes, and Grayson  
14 Estes; step-great-grandchildren, Burke Smith, Mac Smith,  
15 Stella McGraw, Louis McGraw, Clay Guin, Will Guin, Olivia  
16 Atkinson, Emma Atkinson, Archer Carmichael, and Mills  
17 Carmichael; and step-great-great-grandchild, Natalie Guin; and

18           WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
19 missed, the memory of Mr. Miles will be cherished in the  
20 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

21           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. Jesse "Whit"  
23 Whitfield Miles, Sr. is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
24 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with  
25 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by  
26 many.