

1 HR271
2 214037-1
3 By Representative Wood (R)
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 06-MAY-21

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE
9 RICHARD JOEL LAIRD, SR.
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11 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
12 death of former State Representative Richard Joel Laird, Sr.
13 of Roanoke, Alabama, on December 14, 2020, at the age of 81;
14 his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family,
15 many friends, and the entire community, where he was highly
16 regarded; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Laird was born on June 4,
18 1939, in Floyd County, Georgia, to the Reverend Charles O.
19 Laird and Rosa Lee Burgess Laird; he was a graduate of Handley
20 High School; he was a prominent businessman, owning and
21 operating Laird's Five and Dime and the Radio Shack in
22 Roanoke; he was the developer of Peachtree Apartments,
23 Randolph Plaza Shopping Center, and Deer Run Subdivision; he
24 served on the Roanoke City Council from 1972-1976; he served
25 as a Board Member for the Randolph County Economic Development
26 Authority, First Bank, and the Randolph County ALFA Division;
27 he was most prominently known as a member of the Alabama House

1 of Representatives, where he proudly represented Chambers,
2 Clay, and Randolph Counties for 36 years; and

3 WHEREAS, he was a member of the Handley Avenue
4 Church of God where he served as clerk and Sunday School
5 teacher for more than 48 years; he was a charter member of the
6 Randolph County Camp of Gideons International for over 30
7 years; he was named Co-Man-of-the-Year for Randolph County
8 with Tom Burnside in 1978; a stretch of Highway 431 between
9 Interstate 20 and Interstate 85 and the Woodland High School
10 Gymnasium are named in his honor; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Laird was predeceased by his
12 parents; sister, Joyce Haynes; and brother, Eugene Laird; and

13 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of 62 years,
14 Peggy Richardson Laird; son, Richard Joel Laird, Jr.
15 (Whitney); grandchildren, Richard "Rich" Joel Laird, III
16 (Mackenzie) and Stokes Laird (Kendra); great-grandchildren;
17 Caroline Laird and Charlotte Jane "Charlie" Laird; sister,
18 Martha Kelley (Al); and a host of other relatives and many
19 friends; and

20 WHEREAS, although the presence of Representative
21 Laird will be greatly missed, the memories of him will be
22 cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved him; now
23 therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of former State
26 Representative Richard Joel Laird, Sr. is recorded with deep

1 sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute to his life
2 and with heartfelt sympathy to his family.