

1 HR524  
2 153857-1  
3 By Representative Merrill  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 20-MAY-13

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM H. HENDERSON.

9  
10 WHEREAS, we mourn the death of Mr. William H.  
11 "Billy" Henderson of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with deep sadness;  
12 his immeasurable life of 89 years is commended and celebrated  
13 with great thanksgiving; and

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

17 WHEREAS, born in Grove Hill, Alabama, he moved to  
18 Tuscaloosa at an early age and excelled in three sports at  
19 Tuscaloosa High School, where he was named to the 1943  
20 All-State Football Team during his senior year; he attended  
21 the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, where he played  
22 three sports and earned All-Southern Conference and Honorable  
23 Mention All-American football honors and was named the  
24 school's outstanding athlete for 1947; while serving in the  
25 Coast Guard in South Carolina, he played on the Coast Guard  
26 football team and earned All-Service football team honors; he  
27 was drafted by the Chicago Bears, but decided to complete his

1 undergraduate degree at The University of Alabama, where he  
2 lettered in baseball, served as a part-time Assistant Football  
3 Coach at Tuscaloosa High School, pitched for the Tuscaloosa  
4 Merchants, and coached the American Legion Post 34 Baseball  
5 Team to its first State Championship; and

6 WHEREAS, while still in high school and during the  
7 World War II era, Mr. Henderson began his long career of  
8 refereeing football and basketball and umpiring baseball;  
9 notably, he served the Tuscaloosa community for over 50 years  
10 in this capacity; additionally, he served as an Assistant  
11 Football Coach under Frank "Swede" Kendall and as a Head  
12 Basketball and Baseball Coach at Tuscaloosa High; he continued  
13 to coach the Post 34 team and play baseball for the Merchants  
14 and Central Foundry teams during the summers of his early  
15 coaching years; in 1952, he led the Merchants to a national  
16 championship as the coach and star pitcher; at Tuscaloosa  
17 High, his teams won state championships in basketball and  
18 football; in recognition of his outstanding coaching and  
19 athletic successes, he was named Alabama High School Coach of  
20 the Year in 1964, was inducted into the Tuscaloosa High School  
21 Hall of Fame in 1969, the Tuscaloosa Softball Hall of Fame in  
22 1988, and the Alabama High School Coaches Hall of Fame in  
23 1994; and

24 WHEREAS, survivors include his wife of 68 years,  
25 Gene K. Henderson; his daughters, Gene Wilson (Cal), Becky  
26 Strickland (Ken), and Jan Staggs (Tommy); his son, Bill  
27 Henderson; grandchildren, Anne W. Guthrie (Dan), S.D. Wilson,

1 Philip Henderson (Amy), Koster Gousha (Trevor), Kendal  
2 Strickland, and Kate Strickland; great-grandchildren, Philip  
3 Guthrie, Evelyn Guthrie, Garrett Guthrie, Mary Hayes  
4 Henderson, Anna Cate Henderson, and William Henderson; his  
5 brother, James Henderson; his sister, Catherine Lenoard; his  
6 sister-in-law, Margaret Findley; and a number of nieces and  
7 nephews; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Henderson was a valued member of the  
9 community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory  
10 is cherished in the hearts and minds of those who were  
11 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
13 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of  
14 Mr. William H. Henderson, we are grateful for his abundant  
15 life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute to his  
16 inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to his  
17 family and friends.