

1 HR529
2 153891-1
3 By Representatives Merrill, DeMarco, Carns, Love, Hall, Weaver
4 and Williams (J)
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 20-MAY-13

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED) THOMAS
9 LEE MERRILL, SR.

10
11 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we mourn
12 the death of Army Major General (Retired) Thomas Lee Merrill,
13 Sr., of Birmingham, Alabama, on May 5, 2013, at the age of 87
14 years; and

15 WHEREAS, born in Cleburne County, Alabama, on
16 October 27, 1925, he was the oldest of six children of Emory
17 Joseph Merrill and Grace Allen Merrill; and

18 WHEREAS, he served with distinction in the Asiatic
19 Pacific Theater during World War II, and his commissioned
20 service with the United States Army Reserve began in 1949;
21 after being promoted steadily through the ranks to Major
22 General, he became Commander of the 87th Maneuver Area Command
23 in 1979, serving until his retirement in 1983; and

24 WHEREAS, his military education from 1964-1978
25 included graduation from the Command and General Staff
26 College, Armed Forces Staff College, Senior Reserve Component
27 Officer Course, Army War College, and the Executive Program in

1 National and International Security, Kennedy School, Harvard
2 University; and

3 WHEREAS, he served as President of the Alabama
4 Department of the Reserve Officers Association, President of
5 the John C. Persons Chapter of the Association United States
6 Army, principal Army Reserve member of the Army Reserve Forces
7 Policy Committee, and President of the Officers/Enlisted
8 Personnel Management System, United States Army Reserve Review
9 Board; and

10 WHEREAS, the list of his major decorations includes:
11 Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with
12 Oak Leaf Cluster, American Theater of Operations, Asiatic
13 Pacific Theater of Operations, Philippine Liberation Medal,
14 World War II Victory Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the
15 Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, and Alabama's
16 Distinguished Service Medal; and

17 WHEREAS, a graduate of The University of Alabama, he
18 has also enjoyed a distinguished professional career, first
19 with General Electric and then with management consulting
20 firms, working in strategic planning and organizational
21 development for many corporate clients locally, nationally,
22 and globally; in 1990, he joined Altec Industries,
23 Incorporated, serving initially as President and Chief
24 Operating Officer and successively in other positions until
25 retiring in 2000 as Vice Chairman; and

26 WHEREAS, he has held leadership positions in
27 numerous civic, charitable, and religious organizations, among

1 them: Chairman, United Way Campaign of Central Alabama; Board
2 of Trustees, Alabama Independent Colleges; Board of Directors,
3 Junior Achievement; Chairman, Salvation Army Advisory Board;
4 Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, Baptist Health Systems,
5 Incorporated; President, Foundation Board, Alabama Institute
6 for Deaf and Blind; and Chairman, Board of Deacons, Mountain
7 Brook Baptist Church; he also served on a number of corporate
8 boards and was active in the Birmingham Rotary Club, Newcomen
9 Society, and The Country Club of Birmingham; and

10 WHEREAS, survivors include his wife, Kay Harwell
11 Merrill; children, Thomas Lee (Susan) Merrill, Jr., Jennifer
12 Chandler (John) Stevenson, Laurie Chandler (Bill) Huddleston,
13 and Melinda Merrill (Zack) Azar; eight grandchildren; one
14 great-granddaughter; sister, Sue Merrill (Dave) Belcher; and
15 brothers, Stanley (Sue) Merrill and Horace (Mary) Merrill; in
16 addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers,
17 Carl Allen Merrill and Emory Harold Merrill; and

18 WHEREAS, General Merrill was a valued member of the
19 community; although his presence will be greatly missed, his
20 memory will be cherished by those who were fortunate to know
21 him; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
23 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Major General
24 (Retired) Thomas Lee Merrill, Sr., is recorded with deep
25 sadness, and this resolution is offered with heartfelt
26 sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many.