

1 HR63
2 217542-1
3 By Representatives Brown (K), Shaver, Wood (R), Hurst and Boyd
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 15-FEB-22

MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. RUDY ABBOTT.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sadness that we note the death of Mr. Rudy Abbott on February 9, 2022; at the age of 81 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abbott was a native of Anniston, Alabama; he had a distinguished prep career at Walter Wellborn before heading to Jones Junior College in Mississippi; after lettering in football, basketball and track at Jones, Mr. Abbott returned home to Jacksonville State University to pursue a career in baseball; he later signed with the Pittsburg Pirates after tossing a pair of no-hitters during his junior campaign; and

WHEREAS, after his stint in professional baseball, Mr. Abbott returned to Anniston, landing a job as a sports writer at The Anniston Star, and serving local youth league teams each summer as head coach; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abbott spent 32 years as head coach of the Jacksonville State Gamecocks and became just the 29th coach in NCAA history to win 1,000 games, winning 1,003 in his

1 tenure; he was named JSU's Sports Information Director in 1964
2 and took over the baseball program in 1970; he led the
3 Gamecocks to two NCAA National Championships, claiming
4 back-to-back titles in 1990 and again in 1991; during his
5 tenure at JSU, he was named NCAA District Coach of the Year
6 six times; he won five Gulf South Conference titles and 11
7 Gulf South Conference Division titles; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Abbott has been enshrined into several
9 Halls of Fame, including the JSU Athletics Hall of Fame, the
10 Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, the Gulf South Conference Hall of
11 Fame and the Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame; after his
12 coaching career came to an end, he continued to serve as a
13 volunteer youth coach and as an elected member of the Calhoun
14 County Commission; and

15 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
16 missed, the memory of Mr. Abbott will be cherished in the
17 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
19 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. Rudy Abbott
20 is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered
21 in tribute to his life, and with heartfelt sympathy to his
22 family, whose grief is shared by many.