

1 HR64  
2 205382-1  
3 By Representative Hollis  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 25-FEB-20

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. DERRICK LAMAR RICHARDSON.  
9

10 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
11 death on February 14, 2020, of Mr. Derrick Lamar Richardson,  
12 at the age of 47; and

13 WHEREAS, the husband of our good friend and  
14 collegiate, Representative Merika Coleman, Mr. Richardson was  
15 born on October 31, 1972, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Lovenia  
16 Hart Richardson; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson accepted Jesus Christ as his  
18 Lord and Savior at a young age and attended Maple Grove Church  
19 of God with his grandmother, Ada Ford; and

20 WHEREAS, he attended Parker High School, where he  
21 played the tuba in the Marching Thundering Herd Band; during  
22 his junior year, he enlisted in the Army National Guard and  
23 Reserves; after he graduated from high school, he attended the  
24 Army Communications School at Fort Gordon, Georgia; during his  
25 tenure in the military, he was a Legal Support Specialist and  
26 served in multiple capacities; he received two Meritorious

1 Service Citations for Outstanding Performance, as well as an  
2 honorable discharge; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1995, Mr. Richardson enrolled in  
4 Jacksonville State University, where he was involved with the  
5 Student Government Association and the National Pan-Hellenic  
6 Council; in 1996, he became a member of his beloved  
7 fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Eta Nu Chapter;  
8 in 1999, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science;  
9 subsequently, he furthered his education at Long Island  
10 University, where he received a Master of Arts Degree in  
11 Urban/Policy and graduated Cum Laude; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson had a very successful career  
13 in politics and worked in Alabama, Maryland, New York, and  
14 Washington, D.C.; he co-founded the lobbying firm, Epps,  
15 Richardson, and Associates; was the first African American to  
16 hold the position of Director of Public Policy for the  
17 Birmingham Chamber of Commerce; was the Senior Director for  
18 state and regional affairs for Center for American Progress in  
19 Washington, D.C.; was the Legislative Budget Director for the  
20 New York City Council; was the Director of Domestic Policy for  
21 the Lutheran Church in America; and was the Manager of  
22 Government Relations for Van Scoyoc Associates in Washington,  
23 D.C.; recently, he served as a District Press Secretary with  
24 U.S. Representative Terri A. Sewell; while working for  
25 Representative Sewell, Mr. Richardson addressed the challenges  
26 that the 7th Congressional District constituents faced,  
27 including unemployment, crime, human trafficking, and the lack

1 of career and college readiness; he had also served as the  
2 Inaugural Executive Director of The Alabama Alliance of the  
3 Boys and Girls Club; and

4 WHEREAS, he was recognized by numerous organizations  
5 for his commitment to service; he earned the Veteran of  
6 Influence Award from the Birmingham Business Journal, the  
7 Maryland Gubernatorial Proclamation for Outstanding Public  
8 Service, and the Alabama Legislative Black Caucus Award:  
9 Trailblazer and Successful Lobbyist; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2019, Mr. Richardson reconnected with a  
11 longtime business associate, Representative Merika Coleman;  
12 Representative Coleman was very supportive of him and never  
13 left his side; on February 12, 2020, they became husband and  
14 wife; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson is survived by his loving  
16 wife, Merika; children, Jonathan, Dara Elise, Elexia, and  
17 Xaviar; devoted mother, Loevnia Hart Richardson; brothers,  
18 Everett Howard and Gerald Richardson (Grace); a very devoted  
19 cousin who was like a little brother to him, Tionne Birdsong;  
20 three nieces; two nephews; a very devoted cousin who was like  
21 a sister to him, Barbara Birdsong; and a host of cousins,  
22 friends, fraternity brothers, and church family; and

23 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
24 missed, the memory of Mr. Richardson will be cherished in the  
25 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
27 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. Derrick

1 Lamar Richardson is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
2 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with  
3 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by  
4 many.