

1 HR76
2 182687-1
3 By Representative Shedd
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 23-FEB-17

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF THOMAS EDWIN DRAKE.

9
10 WHEREAS, we deeply regret and are greatly saddened
11 to learn of the death of Thomas "Tom" Edwin Drake of Cullman,
12 Alabama, on February 2, 2017, at 86 years of age; and

13 WHEREAS, the passing of Thomas "Tom" Edwin Drake
14 leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends,
15 and the entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

16 WHEREAS, born in Morgan County on December 5, 1930,
17 he was educated in Cullman County; he and his family made
18 their home in Vinemont, Alabama; and

19 WHEREAS, Tom Drake excelled in sports, obtaining an
20 athletic scholarship to the University of Tennessee at
21 Chattanooga, where he wrestled and played football for the
22 Chattanooga Mocs and was drafted to play professionally for
23 the Pittsburgh Steelers; and

24 WHEREAS, following an honorable discharge from the
25 United States Army, Mr. Drake he went on to become a
26 professional wrestler, head wrestling coach at The University

1 of Alabama and a member of the athletic staff under Coach Paul
2 "Bear" Bryant; and

3 WHEREAS, Tom Drake received his law degree from The
4 University of Alabama and practiced law in Cullman for more
5 than 50 years; and

6 WHEREAS, he represented the Cullman area for 32
7 years in the Alabama House of Representatives, winning his
8 first election in 1960 while still in law school; and

9 WHEREAS, Tom Drake served in the House for nine
10 terms, was Speaker of the House twice, and was floor leader
11 for Governors George Wallace, Lurleen Wallace, Albert Brewer,
12 Fob James, Guy Hunt, and Jim Folsom, Jr.; and

13 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the development of
14 Wallace State Community College in Hanceville; the coliseum
15 bears his name and the baseball field, his wife's, Christine;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Tom Drake was preceded in death by his
18 parents and his wife of 56 years, Christine McKoy Drake, also
19 an attorney, stateswoman, and former member of the Alabama
20 Board of Education; and

21 WHEREAS, survivors include his sons Thomas Edwin
22 Drake II (Kimberly) and G. Whit Drake (Katie); daughters Mary
23 Drake Pate and Christy Lee Drake Lowe; and seven
24 grandchildren; and

25 WHEREAS, Thomas Edwin Drake was a valued member of
26 the community; although his presence is greatly missed, his

1 memory is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who
2 were fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
5 Thomas "Tom" Edwin Drake, we are extremely grateful for his
6 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute
7 to his inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to
8 his family and friends.