

1 SJR10
2 116070-2
3 By Senators Coleman, Dunn, Smitherman, French, Waggoner,
4 Beason and Bedford
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 12-JAN-10

1 SJR10

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4 ENROLLED, SJR10,

5 MOURNING THE DEATH OF JESSIE HALE DOWNS.

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7 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and regret that
8 news is received of the death of Ms. Jessie Hale Downs of
9 Birmingham, Alabama, on January 5, 2010, at the age of 92; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Downs, along with her late husband
11 Jimmie Hale, co-founded the Jimmie Hale Mission, a shelter for
12 the homeless, in 1944; only eight months later, at 27 years of
13 age and pregnant with her first child, she was faced with her
14 husband's untimely death and the responsibility to carry on
15 the Mission alone; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Downs, along with her co-director, Bro.
17 Leo Shepura, continued to reach out to those in need until her
18 retirement in 1990; her Mission legacy includes addiction
19 recovery programs, fundraising thrift stores, learning
20 centers, and employment readiness programs; and

21 WHEREAS, the current Mission director, Tony Cooper,
22 said that her Christian commitment to service is honored by a
23 shelter in her name for women and children, Jessie's Place,
24 opened in 1998, where she often visited and prayed; she is

1 also honored with a chapel bearing her name that was dedicated
2 in 2008; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Downs pursued her mission while rearing
4 two daughters and surviving breast cancer in the 1960s; and

5 WHEREAS, she leaves to mourn her death her
6 daughters, Katie Hale (Phillip) Giardina and Ann Downs Wilson;
7 her grandchildren, Bubba (Melany) Justice, Rhonda (Vernon)
8 Masters, Scott (Tonya) Justice, and Sherry (Eddie) Martin; her
9 great-grandchildren, Jessilyn, Katelyn, Connor, Corey, and
10 Kelsey Justice; Austin, Matt, and Amber Masters; and Zach and
11 Andrew Martin; her brothers, J.B. (Betty) Davis and Roland
12 (Carolyn) Davis; and sister, Audie Montgomery; and

13 WHEREAS, the legacy of Ms. Downs, and her love for
14 serving those in need, will live on in the City of Birmingham;
15 now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Ms. Jessie Hale
18 Downs is recorded with deep sadness and heartfelt sympathy is
19 extended to her friends and family, for whom a copy of this
20 resolution shall be provided.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR10
Senate 12-JAN-10
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

McDowell Lee
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 14-JAN-10

By: Senator Coleman