

1 SJR102  
2 186171-1  
3 By Senator Holley  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 02-MAY-17

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.  
9 JOHN PHILIP JOHNSTON.

10  
11 WHEREAS, we mourn the death and celebrate the life  
12 of Mr. John Phillip Johnston of Brundidge, Alabama, who died  
13 on August 26, 2016, after a courageous one-year battle with  
14 cancer; after earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and  
15 History from Troy University, he served for six years in the  
16 Alabama National Guard; and

17 WHEREAS, for 26 years, Mr. Johnston taught senior  
18 high school English, Government, and Economics in Louisville,  
19 Alabama, where he was held in highest esteem by his students,  
20 many of whom kept in touch throughout his life; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnston's interests in history and  
22 genealogy began early in life as he spent much of his time  
23 with his grandparents who shared family history; for the  
24 remainder of his life, Mr. Johnston's free time was devoted to  
25 history, not only the history of his family, but that of his  
26 beloved community; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Johnston was a longtime member and past  
2 President of the Pike County Historical and Genealogical  
3 Society; active in many society projects, he worked tirelessly  
4 on a survey of all of the marked and unmarked graves in the  
5 cemeteries of Pike County, occasionally purchasing and placing  
6 markers on abandoned graves in isolated areas; and

7           WHEREAS, for more than a decade after retirement,  
8 Mr. Johnston would walk the roadside of Highway 93 to pick up  
9 trash along the way; he said this was his way of paying back  
10 his hometown for the wonderful life he had enjoyed in  
11 Brundidge; and

12           WHEREAS, it is fitting that this portion of Highway  
13 93 be named the John Philip Johnston Highway; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Johnston leaves his devoted wife of 46  
15 years, Diane Mathews, of Banks, along with two daughters, four  
16 grandchildren, one sister, and two brothers; all of Pike  
17 County grieves his passing, but takes pride in his many  
18 accomplishments and the memories they share; now therefore,

19           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
20 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That while grieving the death of  
21 Mr. John Philip Johnston, we are extremely grateful for his  
22 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute  
23 to his inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to  
24 his family and friends.