

**SJR38 INTRODUCED**



1 M8F6WW-1

2 By Senators Allen, Albritton, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell, Butler,  
3 Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman, Coleman-Madison,  
4 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones,  
5 Kelley, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed, Roberts,  
6 Scofield, Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,  
7 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

8 RFD:

9 First Read: 18-Apr-23

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SJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MRS. BETTY BAILEY SHIRLEY.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on April 6, 2023, of beloved mental health advocate, Mrs. Betty Bailey Shirley, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, her passing leaves a void in the lives of her loving family, many friends, and the entire community, where she was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shirley was born on November 7, 1927, in Montgomery, Alabama, to Evelyn Parker Bailey and George Forrest Bailey, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from The University of Alabama, where she was a devoted member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Mrs. Shirley dedicated her life to service and addressing mental health at the community level; she found a heart for service because of her late grandson, Walt Gary, who inspired her to advocate for children with disabilities, especially through the RISE Center and The University of Alabama CrossingPoints Program; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shirley helped move RISE from an older facility to the Stallings Center, which prompted the program



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26 to raise more than \$3 million in her honor for an endowment  
27 fund, the Betty Shirley Tree of Life; was a lifetime member  
28 of the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association  
29 of Tuscaloosa County; and served as a member of the DCH  
30 Foundation Ball when its proceeds were used for a  
31 psychiatric unit at DCH Regional Medical Center; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1991, Mrs. Shirley was appointed by  
33 President George W. Bush as one of his One-Thousand Points  
34 of Light, a distinction given to citizens working to better  
35 their communities through volunteer work; in 2002, as a  
36 result of Mrs. Shirley's impactful work, the psychiatry  
37 clinic at The University of Alabama's Capstone Medical  
38 Center was named the Betty Shirley Clinic for Psychiatry and  
39 Behavioral Medicine; and

40 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shirley spent her early life as an  
41 active member of the United Methodist Church and later  
42 joined her family at Christ Episcopal Church; and

43 WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her husband,  
44 George Sidney Shirley; grandson; parents; and siblings,  
45 Evelyn Sledge Britton, Frances Sledge Nicrosi, and George  
46 Forrest Bailey, Jr.; and

47 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shirley is survived by her daughters,  
48 Betsy Shirley Gary (Walter), Allison Shirley Pritchard  
49 (Billy), and Evelyn Shirley Pritchard (Ross); grandchildren,  
50 Allison Gary Drake (Zack), Ann Bailey Pritchard White,



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51 Shelton Pritchard Kitchen (Drew), Billy Pritchard IV  
52 (Louise), Mary Evelyn Pritchard (Ryan), and Ross Pritchard  
53 III; seven great-grandchildren; and a host of other family  
54 members and friends; and

55 WHEREAS, although her presence will be greatly  
56 missed, the memory of Mrs. Shirley will be cherished in the  
57 hearts of all who knew and loved her; now therefore,

58 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
59 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of beloved mental  
60 health advocate, Mrs. Betty Bailey Shirley, is recorded with  
61 deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute to  
62 her life, along with heartfelt sympathy to her family, whose  
63 grief is shared by many.