

**SJR64 INTRODUCED**



1 SJR64

2 1C1WZLL-1

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

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 23-Apr-24



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SJR\_\_\_ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
STEPHEN CHARLES SLOAN.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death of Stephen Charles "Steve" Sloan on April 14, 2024, at the age of 79; and

WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the many communities he called home throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Steve Sloan was born on August 19, 1944, in Austin, Texas, to C.L. "Preacher" Sloan and Virginia Byrd Sloan; in 1953, his family settled in Cleveland, Tennessee, where Steve was a stand-out athlete on the football and basketball teams of Bradley Central High School; he was All-State as both a quarterback and a guard, winning state championships in both sports his senior year; he was also one of the top prep golfers in the state; and

WHEREAS, Steve Sloan attended The University of Alabama where he excelled in both academics and athletics; he was an Academic All-American in 1964 and 1965, majoring in Business and Education; he played defensive back under legendary coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant; he played in the 1964 Sugar Bowl against the University of Mississippi with a victorious final score of 12-7 and won the National Championship Title that year and in 1965; in the 1966 Orange



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29 Bowl, Steve was selected Most Valuable Player; that same  
30 year, he was consensus All-American, named MVP in the  
31 Southeastern Conference, and won the Sammy Baugh Trophy as  
32 the nation's best passer; and in his senior year, he was  
33 voted Co-Captain of the 1965 Crimson Tide Football Team; and

34 WHEREAS, Steve had a strong faith in Jesus Christ,  
35 even as a popular student-athlete; he was a founding member  
36 of the Alabama Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), which  
37 is the longest-running college FCA huddle in the United  
38 States; he became one of FCA's greatest role models during  
39 his career as a Christian coach; he was an outstanding  
40 speaker and was invited to speak at worship services and  
41 universities across the nation, including an invitation from  
42 Billy Graham; and

43 WHEREAS, Steve was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons and  
44 played as a back-up for two years before returning to his  
45 alma mater as a member of Coach Bryant's staff from  
46 1968-1970 and golf coach in 1969; his coaching career took  
47 off and he became offensive coordinator for Florida State  
48 University; under his leadership, the Seminoles led the  
49 nation in offense; he also held that position for Georgia  
50 Tech before taking his first head coaching job at Vanderbilt  
51 University in 1973, becoming the youngest college head  
52 football coach in the nation; Vanderbilt University played  
53 in their first bowl game since 1955 during his time there;  
54 and he was named Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year  
55 in 1974 and Southwest Conference Coach of the Year in 1976;  
56 he continued his highly successful coaching career with



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57 Texas Tech, Ole Miss, and Duke University where he continued  
58 to head championship teams and compile records; Steve also  
59 mentored junior coaching staff who went on to become  
60 successful coaches in their own right; and

61 WHEREAS, Steve returned to The University of Alabama  
62 as Athletic Director in 1987; he excelled in this role as  
63 well and with his advisement, the most successful football  
64 donor program in the nation, Tide Pride, was launched; he  
65 also led the expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium, increasing  
66 the seating capacity to 70,123; during his tenure the  
67 football team played in the Sugar Bowl, the basketball team  
68 gained two berths in the NCAA Tournament, and the gymnastics  
69 team won a National Championship; and

70 WHEREAS, Steve was a successful Athletic Director at  
71 North Texas State University where he elevated the football  
72 program to Division I status; he did the same as the  
73 Athletic Director of the University of Central Florida,  
74 leading the Golden Knights to 36 Atlantic Sun Conference  
75 Championships and 26 NCAA Tournament berths during his  
76 nine-year tenure; he continued his success as Athletic  
77 Director of the University of Chattanooga, launching that  
78 athletic program into a new era of athletic achievements  
79 nationally; and

80 WHEREAS, Steve was inducted into the Tennessee Sports  
81 Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in  
82 2003; Sports Illustrated selected him as one of the 50  
83 Greatest Sports Figures from Tennessee from 1900 to 2000; in  
84 2019 he was selected for the Paul W. Bryant Alumni-Athlete



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85 Award; he fulfilled a lifelong dream of qualifying for a  
86 major golf championship and played in the U.S. Senior Open  
87 in Bethesda, Maryland; he authored two books based on his  
88 Christian faith and how he used his platform in football to  
89 serve Jesus Christ; and he served his country in the United  
90 States Air National Guard; and

91 WHEREAS, Steve was preceded in death by his parents;  
92 stepmother, Samye Jean Phillips Sloan; and his son, Jonathan  
93 Sloan; he will be lovingly remembered by his devoted wife of  
94 55 years, Brenda Faw Sloan; and his son, Stephen Sloan, Jr.;

95 and

96 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
97 missed, the memory of Steve Sloan will be cherished by all  
98 who knew and loved him; now therefore,

99 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
100 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Stephen Charles  
101 "Steve" Sloan is recorded with deep sadness and this  
102 resolution is offered in tribute to his life and with  
103 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by  
104 many.