

1 SJR66
2 175735-1
3 By Senator Smitherman
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 22-MAR-16

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8 CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF EMORY TATE, JR.
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10 WHEREAS, it is with a profound sense of loss that
11 the death of Emory Tate, Jr., is recorded; Mr. Tate died in
12 October 2015 and was buried in the family plot behind New
13 Union Grove Baptist Church in Smuteye, Alabama; while mourning
14 his death, we celebrate his remarkable life; Mr. Tate's father
15 taught him to play the game of Chess and throughout his
16 lifetime, Mr. Tate excelled at the game and became an
17 International Chess Master; he is internationally renown as
18 one of the top African-American chess players and is an
19 inspiration to many young chess players; and

20 WHEREAS, following graduation from Concord High
21 School in Elkhart, Indiana, Mr. Tate attended Northwestern
22 University and later joined the United States Air Force; Tate
23 won the U.S. Armed Forces Chess Championships in 1983 as a
24 Senior Airman, in 1984 as Sergeant, and in 1987, 1988, and
25 1989 as Staff Sergeant; and

26 WHEREAS, becoming a folk hero, Tate dazzled
27 thousands with his tactical treats and developed an Internet

1 fan base; Tate enjoyed the performance of his games and over
2 the years, Tate became a master-level player and showed his
3 games to the general public; and

4 WHEREAS, an intellectually brilliant man, Tate
5 recited poetry, played the piano, sang, spoke foreign
6 languages, and was a remarkable chess instructor; he traveled
7 the world sharing his craft and passion; and

8 WHEREAS, Tate was inducted into the Indiana Hall of
9 Fame in 2005 and was a six-time champion in Indiana, winning
10 in 1995, 1996, 2000, 2005, 2006, and 2007; he was the 2010
11 Alabama State Champion; although he won numerous titles and
12 made generous contributions to chess, he was never awarded the
13 Grandmaster title; and

14 WHEREAS, a valued member of the community, Emory
15 Tate, Jr., combined his character, integrity, and
16 sportsmanship to inspire countless others; with utmost
17 reverence and respect, we uplift his life and legacy, which
18 has reflected immense credit upon the entire State of Alabama;
19 now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That while celebrating the life and
22 legacy of Emory Tate, Jr., we are extremely grateful for his
23 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute
24 to his inspiring life and legacy, as well as in heartfelt
25 sympathy to his family and friends.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
27 resolution shall be provided to the World Chess Hall of Fame

1 and the World Chess Foundation, noting our encouragement to
2 them to posthumously induct Emory Tate, Jr., into the Hall of
3 Fame and to posthumously award the Grandmaster title to Emory
4 Tate, Jr.