

1 SR62  
2 200614-1  
3 By Senator Reed  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 07-MAY-19

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 COMMENDING DR. DONALD J. SALLS, THE OLDEST LIVING  
9 UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA FOOTBALL PLAYER.  
10

11 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, it  
12 is a privilege to commend Dr. Donald J. "Donnie" Salls of Bay  
13 Minette, Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, born on June 24, 1919, in Trenton, New  
15 Jersey, at 99 years old, Dr. Donald J. "Donnie" Salls is the  
16 oldest living University of Alabama football player; and

17 WHEREAS, during his time in high school in White  
18 Plains, New York, he was named MVP on his football team;  
19 later, before joining the U.S. Army and being stationed in  
20 Europe during World War II, he accepted a full scholarship to  
21 The University of Alabama where he played football as a  
22 fullback under Coach Frank Thomas; he played in the Orange  
23 Bowl and the Cotton Bowl; he soon earned his Master's Degree  
24 and his Doctorate Degree; later, he was employed at  
25 Jacksonville State University as head football coach of the  
26 Gamecocks and head of the physical education department; he  
27 remains the winningest coach in Jacksonville State University

1 history, leading the team to win three Paper Bowl games and  
2 seven conference championship titles; during his tenure, he  
3 also produced eight Little All-Americans, sent 12 players to  
4 the pro ranks, and never lost a homecoming game; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Salls has received a plethora of  
6 special accolades, including, but not limited to, being  
7 inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1992, being a  
8 member of the Jacksonville State University Athletic Hall of  
9 Fame, and receiving the National Alumni Association's Paul W.  
10 Bryant Alumni-Athlete Award at the Alabama-Oklahoma football  
11 game in 2003; and

12 WHEREAS, he is known to be a ray of sunshine; he has  
13 a cheerful heart and an unwavering love for the Lord; he and  
14 his wife, Diane Salls, deeply love and support each other; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Salls' glowing personality, positive  
16 attitude, willingness to work hard, and love for people are  
17 admirable attributes that make him an inspiration to all; now  
18 therefore,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF  
20 ALABAMA, That it is an honor to extend special commendations  
21 to the remarkable Dr. Donald J. "Donnie" Salls, and this  
22 resolution hereby serves as a tribute to him in utmost  
23 gratitude and esteem.