

1 SJR2
2 165376-4
3 By Senators Orr, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman, Dial, Dunn, Figures,
5 Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston, Marsh,
6 McClendon, Melson, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford,
7 Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley, and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 03-MAR-15

1 SJR2

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4 ENROLLED, SJR2,

5 MOURNING THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE BILL DUKES.
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7 WHEREAS, it is with an overwhelming sense of loss
8 that we mourn the death of our friend and former colleague,
9 the Honorable Bill Dukes of Decatur on December 18, 2014, at
10 the age of 87 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Dukes, who served in the Alabama House
12 of Representatives from 1994 to 2010 is remembered as one of
13 Alabama's most respected and beloved public servants; and

14 WHEREAS, prior to his election to the Alabama House
15 of Representatives, he served five terms (1976 to 1994) as the
16 City of Decatur's longest tenured mayor; he maintained an open
17 door policy and was known as "the people's mayor" while also
18 diligently pursuing economic development and giving countless
19 hours of his personal time to the pursuit of job creation; and

20 WHEREAS, under his stewardship, Decatur experienced
21 great expansion, highlighted by attracting new business
22 ventures, developing the Industrial Park and River Port,
23 funding Decatur Riverwalk, and revitalizing the downtown area;
24 he was also instrumental in enhancing the quality of life in

1 the area, through a performing arts center and a baseball
2 complex; and

3 WHEREAS, public education was his highest priority,
4 and he was committed to ensuring that schools received all the
5 resources they needed; and

6 WHEREAS, born in Kentucky on February 26, 1927, he
7 graduated from Bowling Green School of Business after serving
8 with honor and distinction in the United States Army; he was
9 initially employed as a teacher and administrator before
10 moving to Decatur in 1957 to work at Chemstrand Corporation
11 and embark upon an unparalleled career of public service; and

12 WHEREAS, his civic leadership through the years
13 included: President of the Jaycees, Commander of the American
14 Legion, Mason at The Rising Sun Lodge 29, and Shriner at
15 Cahaba Shrine, and his contributions have been recognized with
16 the "Melvin Jones Fellow Award" of the Lions Club, the "Paul
17 Harris Fellow Award" of the Rotary Club, and the "Mr. Tourism
18 Award" of the Decatur Convention and Visitors Bureau; and

19 WHEREAS, devoted to family and faith, he was a
20 devout member of the First Presbyterian Church, serving as
21 Elder and in many capacities; he was also actively involved in
22 youth sports, helping bring Dixie Youth Baseball to Decatur as
23 well as coaching and umpiring, and his dedication led to his
24 selection to receive the "Danny Jones Award" from the Dixie
25 Youth Baseball National Organization; he also was instrumental

1 in organizing the Decatur Youth Football Association; the City
2 of Decatur named the recreation facilities at Point Mallard
3 the "Bill J. Dukes Athletic Complex" in his honor, and he was
4 a 2000 inductee into the Morgan County Sports Hall of Fame;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, survivors include his wife of 66 years,
7 Juanita; sons, Ronnie (Vicki) and Jeff (Ann); daughters,
8 Sandra Barrett (Marty) and Pam Pike (Eddie); nine
9 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two brothers,
10 Robert and Jimmy; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Dukes earned the respect and the love
12 of all those who were fortunate to know him, and his legacy
13 will endure far into the future; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the life and contributions of
16 our friend and former colleague, the Honorable Bill Dukes are
17 hereby celebrated, and heartfelt condolences are extended to
18 his family.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR2

Senate 03-MAR-15

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and adopted the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Amended and adopted 17-MAR-15

Senate concurred in House amendment 17-MAR-15

By: Senator Orr