

1 SJR2  
2 164372-1  
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

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7  
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE BILL DUKES.

9  
10 WHEREAS, it is with an overwhelming sense of loss  
11 that we mourn the death of our friend and former colleague,  
12 the Honorable Bill Dukes of Decatur on December 18, 2014, at  
13 the age of 87 years; and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, under his stewardship, Decatur experienced  
24 great expansion, highlighted by attracting new business  
25 ventures, developing the Industrial Park and River Port,  
26 funding Decatur Riverwalk, and revitalizing the downtown area;  
27 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  
26 in organizing the Decatur Youth Football Association; the City  
27 of Decatur named the recreation facilities at Point Mallard

1 the "Bill J. Dukes Athletic Complex" in his honor, and he was  
2 a 2000 inductee into the Morgan County Sports Hall of Fame;  
3 and

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

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

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