

1 HR153
2 212389-1
3 By Representative Sanderford
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 30-MAR-21

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DAVID METHENY ROBB, JR.
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10 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
11 death on March 5, 2021, of David Metheny Robb, Jr. at the age
12 of 83; and

13 WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of
14 his loving family, many friends, and the entire community,
15 where he was highly regarded; Mr. Robb was born on the highest
16 point of Hennepin County, Minnesota, on April 12, 1937, to
17 David Metheny Robb and Jane Howard Robb; his father taught at
18 the University of Pennsylvania and his mother was a docent at
19 the Philadelphia Museum of Art; and

20 WHEREAS, he grew up in Merion, Pennsylvania, and
21 graduated from Episcopal Academy in 1955; he was active in
22 football, track and field, and the school newspaper; Mr. Robb
23 graduated from Princeton University in 1959, where he majored
24 in art history, developing a lifelong love of graphic arts,
25 printing, and travel; at Princeton, he was awarded a Deerfield
26 Fellowship that fostered interest in museum careers and a

1 summer internship at the Society for the Preservation of New
2 England Antiquities; and

3 WHEREAS, after graduation, he served as a Naval
4 Intelligence Officer on the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany;
5 after serving in the Navy for three and a half years, he was
6 awarded a summer internship at the National Gallery of Art in
7 Washington, D.C., where he worked as a curator for noted
8 collector and philanthropist, Paul Mellon; he married Frances
9 Osborn Robb of Birmingham, Alabama; they attended Yale
10 University and each received degrees in art history; after
11 graduating, Mr. Robb received a Ford Foundation Fellowship at
12 the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis; in 1969, he was
13 appointed founding curator at the new Kimbell Museum in Ft.
14 Worth, Texas; he was promoted to Acting Director in 1979;
15 while at the Kimbell, he authored two catalogs of the
16 collections, organized major exhibits, and was responsible for
17 major acquisitions by Paul Cezanne, Rembrandt van Rijn, and
18 others; he was awarded the Museum Institute Summer Fellowship
19 in 1978 and the Attingham Fellowship in 1980; he also
20 continued to serve in the United States Navy Reserve as a
21 naval attache in London, Paris, and Mexico City, attaining the
22 rank of Commander; in 1983, Mr. Robb was appointed director of
23 Telfair Academy in Savannah, Georgia, where he oversaw two
24 historic buildings, Telfair Academy and the Owens-Thomas
25 House; and

26 WHEREAS, he was appointed director of the Huntsville
27 Museum of Art in 1985; while there he organized several

1 initiatives, including the planning of a new standalone
2 building for the museum; he retired in 1995, taking on special
3 projects, many with his wife, Frances, including a display on
4 Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. in the Alabama Federal Courthouse
5 in Montgomery and the conversion of the home of Congressman
6 Carl A. Elliott, Sr. in Jasper to a museum; he has presented
7 papers at professional meetings, been published in the Alabama
8 Heritage magazine, and served on state boards, including the
9 Alabama Historical Association and Friends of the State
10 Archives; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Robb enjoyed family get-togethers,
12 travel, and baseball; he cherished the memory of six barge
13 trips he made in France and the United Kingdom with his wife
14 and dear friends; and

15 WHEREAS, he was predeceased by his parents; and
16 sister, Martha Robb Spiegel; Mr. Robb is survived by his wife
17 of 56 years, Frances Osborn Robb; sons, Andrew Osborn Robb and
18 Matthew Howard Robb; daughters-in-law, Sarah Stauderman and
19 Jennifer Josten; grandchild, Frederic Stauderman Robb; sister,
20 Sarah Robb Yorke; nephew, David Yorke; niece, Simone
21 Russell-McGuire; and a host of other relatives and many
22 friends; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
24 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Mr. David
25 Metheny Robb, Jr. is recorded with deep sadness, and this
26 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with

1 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
2 many.