

SJR27 INTRODUCED



1 SJR27
2 6YKVV3Z-1
3 By Senator Elliott
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 20-Feb-25



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SJR___ HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL
GEORGE A. GARZON.

WHEREAS, it is with deep reverence that we mark the passing of United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel George A. Garzon, Retired, on February 12, 2025, at the age of 87, and celebrate his extraordinary life that remains a testament to duty, honor, and an unwavering devotion to his family, community, and country; and

WHEREAS, he was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on September 6, 1937, and grew up in the Mount Meigs Community under the care of his devoted grandparents and beloved aunt, Thelma Eubanks; he distinguished himself both academically and athletically at Sidney Lanier High School, earning a letter in varsity tennis, before he pursued higher education at Huntingdon College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1959; and

WHEREAS, he answered his nation's call to service and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force through the Alabama Air National Guard; he honed his aviation skills at the pilot training program at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, and at the Advanced Fighter School at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, Arizona; subsequently, he graduated from Squadron Officer School and Air Command and Staff College; and



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29 WHEREAS, Colonel Garzon's military career was marked
30 by valor and excellence; he served as an elite fighter pilot
31 flying the RF-84 and RF-4C with the 160th Tactical
32 Reconnaissance Squadron at Dannelly Field in Montgomery; his
33 distinguished service during the Berlin Crisis earned him
34 the National Defense Service Medal, the Combat Readiness
35 Medal, and the Small Arms Expert Marksman Ribbon, among
36 numerous other commendations and honors; eventually he
37 retired as a Command Pilot with the rank of Lieutenant
38 Colonel, but for the rest of his life he enjoyed reminiscing
39 and telling tales about flying with his friends and brothers
40 in arms; and

41 WHEREAS, even beyond the skies, Colonel Garzon
42 continued his lifelong mission of service and was a pillar
43 of the Montgomery business community while still serving the
44 public; he was appointed Director of the Alabama Department
45 of Aeronautics from 1990 to 1994, where he played an
46 instrumental role in shaping aviation policy on a national
47 level through his involvement as Regional Vice President and
48 Board Member for the National Association of State Aviation
49 Officials as well as serving as a Board Member for the
50 Center of Aviation Research and Education in Washington,
51 D.C.; and

52 WHEREAS, his lifelong love of knowledge was
53 unceasing, and he earned both a Bachelor of Science and a
54 Master in Education from Auburn University; he was
55 recognized for his academic excellence by being selected for
56 membership in Alpha Epsilon Delta and Kappa Delta Pi Honor



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57 Societies; additionally, he served as an esteemed member and
58 Board Chair for the Auburn University School of Nursing, he
59 was a stalwart member of The University of Alabama School of
60 Medicine's Internal Medicine Program Advisory Board, and he
61 was lauded as Auburn University at Montgomery's
62 Distinguished Alumnus in 2000; and

63 WHEREAS, Colonel Garzon was also an engaged civic
64 leader, serving as Mayor of the Old Cloverdale Association
65 in Montgomery, Chair of the Sewanee: The University of the
66 South Parents' Council, was elected President of the South
67 Alabama State Fair in 1991, served on the Board of Directors
68 of the Group Homes for Children and The Montgomery Academy,
69 was a devoted member of the Order of the Daedalians, the
70 Quiet Birdmen Society, the Montgomery Jaycees, and the
71 Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; was a lifetime
72 member of the Radio Aero Modelers Montgomery and the
73 International Miniature Aircraft Association; and also
74 volunteered his leadership and expertise to organizations
75 like the United Way, the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery, the
76 Montgomery Country Club, and his two terms of service on the
77 Vestry at St. John's Episcopal Church; and

78 WHEREAS, above all his achievements, his greatest joy
79 and highest devotion was his beloved family, the four
80 children and seven grandchildren he shared with Marney V.
81 Garzon: daughter, Marney Garzon and her son Reed; June
82 Garzon; Georganne Perrine (Thomas) and their children Tiley,
83 Belle, Anne Archer, and Caroline; and Retired Lieutenant
84 Colonel George H. Garzon (Katherine) and their children



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85 George Jr. and Alice; he leaves to them an indelible legacy
86 of warmth, wisdom, and love; and

87 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama stands in eternal
88 gratitude for the distinguished and selfless service that
89 Lieutenant Colonel George A. Garzon showcased throughout his
90 entire life, exemplifying the highest ideals of leadership,
91 devotion, and kindness; now therefore,

92 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
93 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby reverently
94 commemorate the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of
95 Lieutenant Colonel George A. Garzon, honoring his unwavering
96 dedication and offering our deepest condolences to his
97 family, friends, and all who mourn his passing.

98 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
99 resolution be provided to the family of Lieutenant Colonel
100 Garzon as a token of the highest esteem in which he was held
101 by this body and the people of Alabama.