

1 HR548
2 160542-1
3 By Representative Todd
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 03-APR-14

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8 DESIGNATING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 SHROUD AWARD.
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10 WHEREAS, the Shroud Award is an annual sine die
11 tradition in which the deadest bill of the year is revealed.
12 This is the 36th Anniversary of the award. Originating in
13 1979, many of you were in elementary school when this custom
14 started. From the look of some of this legislation, it appears
15 a few of you still are.

16 Initially, in the interest of full disclosure, we
17 must state that we have run this resolution by the Gentleman
18 from Auburn. After all, he IS one of the most powerful
19 individuals in our state. Thankfully, we are very pleased to
20 report that we have received full approval from Coach Malzahn.
21 However, he did say things needed to be hurried up. Some folks
22 just refuse to take it slow. There ought to be a rule against
23 that.

24 Customarily, the prior year's recipient offers the
25 next shroud resolution, and traditionally, there has never
26 been back-to-back winners. That's too bad, as Representative
27 Todd is a one person walking and talking Shroud Award. If you

1 doubt us, check out her bills on Twitter. Just punch in
2 Hashtag: SEX, DRUGS, AND ROCK and ROLL. After consulting with
3 unnamed advisors, perhaps that Dude from Duck Dynasty or the
4 Chief Justice, the Gentle lady has kindly agreed not to inject
5 her agenda into these proceedings. We are glad to announce
6 that the winner will not be SPAYED or NEUTERED. However, our
7 Sweeney Todd has promised that the recipient's nose will be
8 rubbed in it.

9 A primary goal of this session has been controversy
10 avoidance. That makes for great politics, but lousy humor.
11 Fortunately, some of you have never worked well with others.
12 In recognition of those members, we give you our list of lame
13 legislative laughs:

14 Number 10. THE HAPPIEST HOLIDAY. It would be nice to
15 be able to say Merry Christmas without being sued, but
16 legislators forgot to include another religious greeting that
17 brings great joy and a warm safe feeling to almost everyone.
18 What Alabamian does not absolutely love saying: THANK GOD,
19 it's finally Sine Die Day?

20 Number 9. BIG MAC ATTACK. Congratulations to our
21 good friend, the Rules Chairman. After your change of heart,
22 you look MARVELOUS. The Democrats only wish your special order
23 calendars looked so good.

24 Number 8. JUST DROWN US. Rarely do we agree with
25 those Amnesty International people, but WATERBOARDING is
26 definitely the ultimate torture. Thanks Jefferson County.

1 Number 7. IN A SNOW DRIFT. The Leadership wisely
2 proposed a rule to allow meeting days to be adjusted in
3 instances of a state of emergency. Even the Democrats were on
4 board, but they wanted one modification. Admirably wishing to
5 ensure that the legislative process was not interrupted, the
6 Minority suggested specific language stating that the upcoming
7 general election would not constitute a natural disaster.

8 Number 6. OPEN DOOR POLICY. Upstairs, controversy
9 arose over a parliamentary issue. Efforts to amend sections of
10 the Code of Ethics were challenged as not germane to a bill
11 amending sections of the Code of Ethics. GERMANE! Some carping
12 critics complained that those folks wouldn't know Germane if
13 he walked through a revolving door. Really, it's as simple as
14 A, B, C. He's Michael Jackson's older brother.

15 Number 5. BRIDGES OVER TROUBLED WATER, OR AT LEAST
16 THE RED SEA. And Moses came down from Goat Hill with Twelve
17 and one-half Commandments. Funny, that's not how we learned
18 it. And we always thought that only Liberals were good at
19 REVISIONIST HISTORY. We aren't saying the debate got off
20 track, but images of Moses mindlessly wandering in the desert
21 for 40 years came to mind. It was a PLAGUE ON YOUR HOUSE, and
22 lacking a prompt EXODUS Strategy, some folks got a little too
23 close to the burning bush. We never saw any Golden Calves, but
24 we sure heard some GOLDEN GAFFES.

25 Number 4. CORE VALUES. It's official, common core is
26 no longer a common bore. Now its hard core. History was
27 reportedly made when an F-Bomb was dropped in a public

1 hearing, and that letter did not stand for Filibuster. We
2 don't know if the viewpoint of Superintendent Bice is nice or
3 pure vice, but some folks are clearly missing a saucer to go
4 with their tea cup. There ought to be standards for this.

5 Number 3. MISTAKEN IDENTITY. Outraged by proposed
6 Senate budgetary cuts to Alabama State University, the Gallant
7 Knight from Montgomery boldly raised his sword and declared
8 those reductions would only pass this chamber when the MIKE
9 was pried from his COLD DEAD HANDS. At first, we were alarmed,
10 but then we realized he was talking about the sound
11 equipment,...not Mr. SPEAKER.

12 Number 2. HE CAN S'PLAIN IT. Kudos to rookie
13 Representative Dimitri Polizos for his short, succinct, and
14 sensible explanation of a resolution. What more is necessary
15 than, "To make it more legal?" As they say, Go small or go
16 home. Next up, his explanation of Obama Care.

17 Number 1. ONE OF A KIND. The Dean of the House has
18 modestly informed all that he is the only one in this chamber
19 who has never violated any of the Ten Commandments. It is such
20 an inspiring story that Hollywood plans a movie about him. It
21 will be called HOLMES ALONE. However, we must report the
22 Representative just squeaked by with a perfect record. You all
23 know the Fifth Commandment, well... maybe a couple of you know
24 it. It provides "Honour thy father and thy mother." If that
25 sentence from Sinai had applied to other family members, there
26 may have been a problem. After all, the Gentleman's comments
27 about a certain UNCLE have not been exactly honorable; and

1 WHEREAS, having recalled a little nonsense among all
2 the conservative commonsense, it's time to move on to the
3 award. As always, we begin with the runners-up, those
4 offerings that were bad, just not bad enough to win the grand
5 prize:

6 House Bill 1 and the companion, Senate Bill 1, The
7 Alabama Ahead Act, by Representative Jim McClendon, providing
8 for textbooks in electronic format and digital infrastructure
9 improvements. The only thing AHEAD concerning this offering
10 was its placement on the Regular Order Calendar. At least it
11 was Number One in something. This proposal infuriated the
12 younger generation. How were they going to convince the
13 teacher that the dog ate their homework? A fast learner
14 upstairs, once this icon fell on your lap top, it was as if
15 the measure was on DIAL-up service. Perhaps the sponsor's hard
16 drive got hung up by the fact it was funded by a one hundred
17 million dollar 20-year bond issue. Like a bunch of Angry Birds
18 out to do some Candy Crushing, opponents pointed out with
19 their pen-enabled thing-a-ma-jigs that most of these devices
20 would have a shorter expiration date than a quart of milk. But
21 on the upside, at least a tablet doesn't stink once it sours,
22 it just won't stop blinking. Talk about being Steve Jobbed. By
23 the time his Rent-To-Own Plan was paid off, virtually anything
24 could happen technologically, except of course, enough
25 Democrats being cloned to regain the Majority. You guys must
26 have made the sponsor mad, because he's talking about taking

1 his device and going upstairs, where the reception is a whole
2 lot better. Best of luck to you.

3 House Bill 555 by Representative Kerry Rich,
4 prohibiting persons under the age of 19 from riding in the bed
5 of a pickup truck. The brutal North Alabama winter must have
6 caused the sponsor to suffer a brain freeze. He might as well
7 ban gospel music, cornbread, and college football. This
8 well-intended safety measure was immediately perceived as a
9 real threat to both our Southern Heritage and our Mass Transit
10 System. Who can figure you guys out? For some reason it's all
11 right for children to ride in a truck bed, but not to lie in a
12 tanning bed. Good Night! It seemed clear that this bedtime
13 story would not have a happy ending. Fearing redneck
14 retribution, a convincing voice vote was all that was needed
15 to slam the tailgate shut on this overreaching big government
16 vehicle.

17 House Bill 458 by Representative Oliver Robinson,
18 providing for ad valorem tax adjustments for certain
19 affordable rental housing units. How appropriate that at this
20 special time, for basketball fans at least, that a Shroud
21 nominee is a two-time first-team All-Sun Belt Conference guard
22 and Most Valuable Player who led UAB to an upset of the Number
23 1 seed on the way to the NCAA Regional Finals. He was a sweet
24 shooting guard who could control the offense. We wouldn't say
25 his ball handling skills aren't what they used to be, but we
26 doubt he will be adding this turnover to his highlight reel.
27 It seemed like a classic mismatch; rich folks and poor folks

1 against common folks. But the little man took the high price
2 talent to the rack. In a year when absolutely everything that
3 is sent to the House floor passes, his shot resulted in a
4 vicious in-your-face rejection by a bunch of short, slow, out
5 of shape local tax officials. Allow us to put this
6 embarrassment in terms you are familiar with. As a kid on the
7 playground do you remember when 10 dudes choose up sides for a
8 5-on-5 basketball game? Well, not only are you the player not
9 yet chosen, but the captain looks at you and says, "Forget it,
10 we'll play with four guys." Otherwise stated, if the House
11 Dream Team of Marcel Black, James Buskey, Margie Wilcox,
12 Leslie Vance and you went head-to-head with LeBron, Koby,
13 Carmelo, Noah, and Durant, the beat down would not have been
14 this ugly. The BIR vote was one big air ball, with a count of
15 37 Yeas, 43 Nays, and 4 abstentions. And apparently 20 of your
16 teammates ran to the cabbage patch. They must have mistaken
17 those round green vegetables for basketballs. Like your
18 college jersey, this number should be retired; and

19 WHEREAS, having dismissed the also-rans, it is time
20 to announce the winner of the Annual Shroud Award. The title
21 of deadest legislation of 2014 goes to a bill that:

22 Offered a liberal dose of what is right.

23 Aimed to please.

24 Played a shell game.

25 Targeted education.

26 Was a firecracker of an idea.

1 Gave cause for celebration to some and taxed the
2 patience of others.

3 Of course you know who the winner is! After all, it
4 wasn't exactly a shot in the dark. The 2014 Shroud Award goes
5 to House Bill 559, which would provide for a Fourth of July
6 weekend sales tax holiday on guns and ammunition. We sure hope
7 the sponsor enjoys the shine of the rocket's red glare,
8 because she has received so much media notoriety that even
9 Alvin Holmes is green with envy. But you have to admire the
10 Gadsden Gunner. Her actions had the left-wing Washington crowd
11 begging that the safety be engaged on the lady's most lethal
12 weapon...her words. Who needs titanium tipped-bullets when
13 your high velocity verbage can pierce the hide of the toughest
14 rhino? What a woman! We even heard that she has become a role
15 model ... for Sarah Palin. Who do you think taught Mama
16 Grizzly Bear how to skin a liberal? You BETCHA!

17 Bullet Becky tried to promote this Yankee Doodle
18 Dandy as a tourism tool. Perhaps she got the idea from
19 Colorado, except travelers would pour into our state not for
20 legal pot, but for tax-free shots. But some wondered if it's a
21 good idea for funny talking foreigners to cross our borders
22 and take our guns. Where's Senator Beason when you need him?

23 Most of the debate was aimed at the Three Rs.
24 Reading, Riting, and Remington. Fiscal experts claimed schools
25 would lose a cool half-a-million bucks during the holiday. At
26 four pennies on a dollar, that's a whole lot of carbines and
27 cartridges shooting out the door during a three-day weekend.

1 Perhaps on second thought, a bulletproof vest isn't all that
2 uncomfortable. While education funding might suffer, there is
3 an upside. This proposal will provide a nice learning
4 opportunity for our young people. They often wonder what's the
5 worst that could happen when you combine nasty sunburns,
6 massive traffic jams, greasy barbecue, warm beer, Asian
7 fireworks, and tax-free guns and ammo all together on a dark,
8 hot, and humid July evening.

9 In all this crying about the financial hit on the
10 ETF, folks are forgetting that our master marketer has
11 offered a viable revenue replacement. Thanks to her
12 legislation, people could sell domestic fowls between the
13 hours of sunset and sunrise and we aren't talking chicken feed
14 here.

15 This being the Alabama State House, there has to be
16 somebody to blame for this pistol-whipping. There were the
17 usual suspects: President Obama, one of those anti-hunting
18 drones, and of course, Lane Kiffin. But opponents argued the
19 real villain was bad timing. Introduced on the 19th
20 Legislative Day, the bill was just offered too late - like 200
21 years too late.

22 We suspect this shootout will never end peacefully,
23 and remembering the coach's admonition to hurry up, it is
24 perhaps best to move on to the passing of the plaque; now
25 therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
27 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the winner of the 2014 Shroud

1 Award is House Bill 559 providing for a tax-free holiday for
2 guns and ammunition. The Conservatives' favorite straight
3 shooter, Representative Becky Nordgren, is requested to disarm
4 her weapons and come forward to accept the Shroud.