

1 SR4
2 203925-2
3 By Senators Livingston, Scofield, Sessions, Chambliss, Butler,
4 Shelnutt, Melson, Stutts, Price, Barfoot, Gudger,
5 Coleman-Madison, Jones, Beasley, Burkette, Sanders-Fortier,
6 Singleton, Whatley, Roberts, Albritton, McClendon, Ward, Reed,
7 Allen, Orr, Holley, Chesteen, Elliott, Williams, Givhan,
8 Figures, Marsh and Smitherman
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 04-FEB-20

CELEBRATING SENATOR JABO WAGGONER, ANOTHER
CENTENNIAL.

WHEREAS, Alabama has just completed our Bicentennial Celebration, a two hundred year birthday party complete with the unwrapping of grand gifts of state pride, promise, and potential; and

WHEREAS, today there is another important centennial worthy of our acknowledgement and appreciation, Senator J. T. Waggoner is commencing his 100th legislative session, a one-of-a-kind feat unlikely to ever be replicated; just think, forty-eight years in the Alabama Legislature; a mind-numbing 34 Regular Sessions and 66 Organizational and Special Sessions; ballpark, over one thousand five hundred legislative days; indeed, the only person who comes close to him in the law-making business is Moses, who just had ten commandments to handle and only needed to part the Red Sea; mere child's play compared to the thousands of bills to go before the Senator and the daily miracle of parting the ocean of lobbyists on the seventh floor; and

1 WHEREAS, our dear friend and political Energizer
2 Bunny, shows no signs of slowing down, his batteries still
3 indicate 100 percent and he keeps going and going; just ponder
4 what went into obtaining this achievement: an incredible seven
5 decades of legislative meetings listening to the stupefying
6 soundings of colleagues; how much meandering mutterings,
7 paralyzing parliamentary prattle, bombastic budgetary baloney,
8 senseless sunset soliloquies, BIR BS, and frivolous filibuster
9 falderal can one human endure; just imagine how many times the
10 Senator has heard those dreaded words, Mr. President, I will
11 start my first hour; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Waggoner claims the longest record
13 of service of any legislator in Alabama history, having served
14 in the House of Representatives from 1966 to 1983 and in the
15 Senate from 1990 to the present; our research led us to some
16 of those old House members composites hanging on the walls of
17 the fifth and sixth floor which gave us clues about how things
18 have changed over the years, our observations: your presiding
19 officers have run the gambit from a Speaker that looked like
20 Tennessee Ernie Ford to a President that has even less hair
21 than you; you've transitioned from big bright plaid sports
22 coats and two-tone oxfords to dark bankers' suits and
23 conservative high-end lace-ups, in our humble opinion, a
24 definite improvement over that Monty Hall look; back then, you
25 had a right knee and a left knee, now you have a good knee and
26 a bad knee, soon to become a bad knee and a worse knee;
27 lately, your back goes out more than you do; impressively, you

1 are as slim as ever, which is about as slim as the chances the
2 Senators sponsoring this resolution have getting their bills
3 on the Special Order Calendar; and while it appears you shrank
4 a couple inches in physical stature, you still tower over your
5 colleagues; indeed, Senator, you haven't changed a bit; and

6 WHEREAS, allow us to use Senator Waggoner's
7 political campaign buttons collection to illustrate his length
8 of service in the State Capitol and State House; to cover his
9 tenure you would have to wear the polished metal medallions of
10 Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush 1,
11 Clinton, Bush 2, Obama, and Trump, its hard enough to learn
12 the history of those administrations, much less have lived it;
13 in his first year as a legislator mini-skirts were the rage,
14 the U.S. had a half million troops in Viet Nam, color
15 televisions became popular, Star Trek began on TV, Notre Dame
16 won the national championship, even though Bama had a better
17 record, the Beatles, Stones, and Beach Boys were hot and the
18 Senator's favorite tune was probably "Monday, Monday," because
19 it reminded him he had to be in Montgomery on the following
20 day, for the next fifty plus years; and

21 WHEREAS, some say since your arrival in 1966, you
22 have been a fixture around here, but we are not sure they had
23 fixtures back then; we understand your first trip to the
24 Capitol was by horse and buggy, a fitting means of transport
25 for a WAGGONer; let's just say this isn't his first trip
26 around the Capitol block, and yes, we're talking about the
27 capitol block in Montgomery, not Cahaba or Tuscaloosa; clearly

1 it's not his first rodeo, as evidenced by the good looking
2 Stetson he had on at the statehood ceremony, no silly, not the
3 first one in 1819, but the most recent one; and while we know
4 a lot about our friend, one mystery remains, what the heck
5 does Jabo mean; it certainly does not stand for Just About
6 Bottomed Out, as the gentleman from District 16 is easily good
7 for another twenty or thirty sessions; and

8 WHEREAS, his polite, patient, and pleasant demeanor
9 belies the fact that he has spent the majority of his 82 years
10 in this bizarre world where time stands still, the workday
11 begins at five o'clock, you drive three hours to work three
12 minutes, a short discussion lasts two hours, you can't call
13 the person you're trashing by his real name, and everyone is
14 your best friend when you chair the Rules Committee; good guy
15 notwithstanding, the Senator is not always Doctor Sunshine,
16 you don't want to make this dude mad, seeing the Vestavia
17 Vesuvius erupt is a sight to behold; he may have swallowed a
18 truckload of antacids over the last 100 sessions, but he still
19 has fire in his belly and his arteries still pump with
20 attitude; and

21 WHEREAS, because the Senator has been around here so
22 long, his athletic feats are legend, at least in Suite 726;
23 Auburn has Bo, Texas A&M has Jimbo, Clemson has Dabo, and we
24 have Jabo; the Senator likes to reminisce about playing under
25 legendary Auburn Basketball Coach Bill Lynn; he recalls
26 practicing the unique shuffle offense so much, that he can
27 still run it in his sleep; funny, we thought he had restless

1 leg syndrome when he dozed off on the Senate floor; but Jabo
2 the Jock still has game; many unsuspecting lobbyist has
3 suffered from the shuffle and warily watched must-have
4 legislation back doored and relegated to the bench while some
5 second teamer gets a starting position on that day's agenda;
6 the Senator brags about being a member of the Alabama Sports
7 Hall of Fame, but we think it's for stellar play on the
8 executive board, not the backboard; Mr. Rules Chairman, you
9 may still be able to manage the floor, put a lid on the
10 basket, set the lineup, control the clock, block an opponent's
11 shot, and enforce the rules, but don't get too cocky; if Coach
12 Pearl comes a calling, we suspect he's looking for help with
13 legislation, not layups; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF
15 ALABAMA, That on the first day of your 100th legislative
16 session, we marvel at your legacy of longevity and loyalty,
17 and are grateful for a remarkable career characterized by
18 service, statesmanship, strength, and steadfastness; we
19 congratulate you on this singular standard, and wish for you
20 good health and much happiness as you extend this magnificent
21 milestone. Everyone, including Senator Waggoner, please rise
22 and give a hearty shout out for this impressive feat. Now,
23 everyone except Senator Waggoner, please be seated; it is
24 obvious that the Last Man Standing should always be Senator
25 Jabo Waggoner. Congratulations.