

Resolution 25-

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Ernest Wayne Bonner and wish to honor his life while celebrating his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Wayne was born on December 14, 1942, in Lawrence County, Tennessee, to Willie Lake and Flora Bass Bonner. As one of 11 children, he grew up in a lively and close-knit family. After graduating from Lawrence County High School in 1960, he continued his education at the University of Tennessee at Martin before proudly serving in the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Wayne's rural upbringing instilled in him a deep love for the land, farming, and raising cattle—a passion he carried throughout his life. A devoted member of First Presbyterian Church, he served on the board of trustees and contributed in numerous other capacities over the years.; and

WHEREAS, he was a pillar of the community, always striving to leave things better than he found them. While he held numerous prominent roles, his greatest impact came through his countless acts of kindness and generous charitable endowments. A visionary leader, he changed lives and built a lasting legacy of service. As the president of Bonner Development and owner of Bonner Land & Cattle, he played a vital role in shaping his community. His dedication to excellence was recognized in 1989 when he was named Builder of the Year by the Home Builders Association of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Wayne was appointed to the Board of Control of the Von Braun Center (VBC) in 1990 and later served as Chairman, bringing visionary leadership, dedication, and a strong sense of stewardship to the role. Under his guidance, the VBC flourished as a hub for cultural and athletic events, growing alongside the city he loved. In recognition of his lasting contributions, Huntsville's Mayor and City Council issued a proclamation honoring the significance of his role on the VBC Board of Control in October 2022; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to his community was evident in his extensive service across various organizations. He served on the board of ServisFirst Bank, the board of trustees for Randolph School, and as an advisor to the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild. A proud member of the Madison County Cattlemen's Association, he was also a past president of the Home Builders Association of Alabama, the Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association, and the Alabama Angus Association. His leadership and commitment left a lasting impact on each organization he touched; and

WHEREAS, Wayne had a deep love for country music, cheering on his Tennessee Vols, and spending time at his farm—but above all, he cherished his family. His warmth, generosity, and unwavering dedication to those he loved will be forever remembered. His influence will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, join his family in mourning the loss of Mr. Wayne Bonner, a true pillar of the community, and wish to honor the extraordinary legacy he leaves behind.

ADOPTED this the ____ day of _____, 2025.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the ____ day of _____, 2025.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama