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The Alabama Public Service Commission Expresses Its Condolences to the Family of Commissioner Jim Sullivan

The Alabama Public Service Commission wishes to express its deepest sympathy to the family of Commissioner Jim Sullivan. Commissioner Sullivan was a trail blazer in the utility regulation arena and very active at the state and national levels.

“We are deeply saddened by the passing of Jim Sullivan. The impact of his legacy as a public servant continues to be felt at the Alabama Public Service Commission even today. In addition to leading our agency for more than 20 years, Commissioner Sullivan was at the forefront of the conservative movement in Alabama. I deeply value the time I spent working with him when he served as Finance Chairman for the Alabama Republican Party and I served as its Executive Director. We pray for his family and their ability to find comfort and peace during this difficult time,” says Commission President Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh.

“I would like to thank Commissioner Sullivan’s family for his dedication to our State and to the Alabama Public Service Commission and acknowledge his many achievements. My wife and I are praying for his family, that they may find peace at this time,” said Commissioner Beeker.

Jim Sullivan was President of the Alabama Public Service Commission from 1983 - 2008, making him one of the longest serving public utility commissioners in the country. When he was re-elected to the PSC in November 2000, Alabama voters gave him the largest margin of victory of any statewide candidate.

In November 1998, he was elected president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, or NARUC, the principal voice of the states on national energy and telecommunications policy. He also served as Chairman of NARUC’s Committee on Critical Infrastructure.

“Jim Sullivan was a great friend and mentor to me. He was an exceptional leader not only for the State of Alabama, but for the nation as well. Commissioner Sullivan’s immense knowledge of utility regulation and the energy industry was unparalleled, and he will be deeply missed on a personal and professional level. My prayers and love go out to Toody and his entire family,” says Commissioner Jeremy H. Oden.

Commissioner Sullivan holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi, where he attended on a football scholarship. After graduating from Ole Miss in 1968, he went on to the University of Alabama, earning a Master’s Degree in Banking and Finance in 1969 and his Juris Doctor in 1973.
In addition to his national leadership role through NARUC, Commissioner Sullivan was a member of the Advisory Council of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He also held a seat on the University of Chicago Board of Governors of the Argonne National Laboratory and the Keystone Energy Board, a privately funded think tank addressing a wide variety of energy-related issues. He also served on the advisory councils of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations and the Electric Power Research Institute.

In 2004, Commissioner Sullivan began serving as a dedicated member of the Board of Directors of Glenwood Mental Health Services, Inc., a renowned health care facility serving children, adolescents, and adults who are affected by autism or severe mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders.

Commissioner Sullivan will not only be remembered for his many achievements but also his professionalism and dedication to the energy industry. The Alabama Public Service Commission staff will remember him for his kindness and willingness to help all of those who worked with him.

After retiring from the Alabama Public Service Commission in 2008, Commissioner Sullivan started a consulting business named The Sullivan Group, which focused on energy issues. His business has been successful for the last 13 years where he continued to be very active with NARUC.

Jim had two children and his wife Toody has two children. Together they have nine grandchildren.

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