

1 SJR41
2 116411-2
3 By Senators Little (T), Erwin, Barron, Beason, Bedford,
4 Benefield, Bishop, Brooks, Butler, Coleman, Denton, Dixon,
5 Dunn, Figures, French, Glover, Holley, Keahey, Little (Z),
6 Marsh, Means, Mitchell, Mitchem, Orr, Penn, Pittman, Poole,
7 Preuitt, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman
8 and Waggoner
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 02-FEB-10

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8 RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF COLONEL ROBERT LEWIS HOWARD.

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10 WHEREAS, it is a unique privilege to pay homage to a
11 native son who became one of America's greatest heroes, United
12 States Army Colonel (Retired) Robert Lewis Howard, who died on
13 December 23, 2009, at the age of 70 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Colonel Howard was credited with being the
15 most decorated American soldier in history, having been
16 awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, two Distinguished
17 Service Crosses, the Silver Star, four Bronze Stars, eight
18 Purple Hearts, and scores of additional citations for valor
19 and merit during the course of his 36-year career; and

20 WHEREAS, born in Opelika on July 11, 1939, he joined
21 the Army at the age of 17, enlisting in the paratroopers, and
22 retired as a full Colonel in 1992; during the Vietnam War, he
23 served in the Green Berets and spent most of his five tours of
24 duty in the covert Special Operations Group that carried out
25 some of the most daring and dangerous missions ever conducted
26 by the American military; he was wounded 14 times in 54
27 months; and

1 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor citation described his
2 action on a mission to rescue a missing American soldier in
3 enemy-controlled territory: although a grenade attack had left
4 him weaponless, wounded, and unable to walk, he managed to
5 crawl through a hail of fire to retrieve his critically
6 wounded platoon leader, then administered first aid and
7 rallied his platoon to repulse the enemy for more than three
8 hours, gaining sufficient control to permit the landing of
9 rescue helicopters; he was cited for conspicuous gallantry,
10 intrepidity, and complete devotion to the welfare of his men
11 at the risk of his life; and

12 WHEREAS, Colonel Howard was nominated for the Medal
13 of Honor two additional times for extraordinary heroism within
14 a 13-month period; he holds the distinction of being the only
15 soldier in history to be nominated for the nation's highest
16 honor three times for three separate actions, and although an
17 individual can receive only one Medal of Honor, the men who
18 served with Colonel Howard said he deserved all three; and

19 WHEREAS, although his formal education was
20 interrupted when he answered the call of his country to serve
21 in the military, he later pursued advanced studies and earned
22 an AA in Business Administration in 1962 from the University
23 of Maryland, a Bachelor's Degree in Police Administration in
24 1973 from Texas Christian University, a Master's Degree in
25 Management and Supervision from Central Michigan University in
26 1980 and a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 1981,
27 also from Central Michigan University; and

1 WHEREAS, he leaves to mourn his death his children
2 and grandchildren, as well as his siblings who reside in
3 Alabama: brother and sister, Steve Howard and Frances Jackson
4 of Prattville, and sisters, Judy Roberts and Alice Carter of
5 Opelika; and

6 WHEREAS, Colonel Howard's burial with full military
7 honors is scheduled on February 22, 2010, in Arlington
8 National Cemetery; now therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That while we mourn the loss of our
11 native son, United States Army Colonel (Retired) Robert Lewis
12 Howard, we celebrate the valiant life of this American patriot
13 and hero of incomparable stature.