

1 SJR119
2 130681-1
3 By Senators Taylor, Fielding, and Brewbaker
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-MAY-11

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8 MOURNING THE DEATHS AND HONORING THE SURVIVORS OF
9 THE TORNADO OUTBREAK IN ELMORE COUNTY, ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the most recent tornado
12 outbreak, we pause from our legislative deliberations to mourn
13 the victims and honor the people of Elmore County and the
14 State of Alabama, who continue to display unimaginable courage
15 and resilience as they count the casualties and survey the
16 damage; and

17 WHEREAS, with the human cost mounting, homes
18 destroyed, and buildings obliterated, we turned on our
19 television sets for an update, and there we inevitably found a
20 storm-ravaged Alabamian, standing amid the wreckage, and
21 telling an interviewer: "We are truly blessed" or "We lost
22 everything, but we still have our family" or "We will find a
23 way to survive this"; and

24 WHEREAS, never did we hear one of these victims ask:
25 "Why me?"; and

1 WHEREAS, then we watched neighbors and strangers
2 finding ways to help, and the shattered communities began to
3 coalesce, offering a measure of consolation; and

4 WHEREAS, we can not bring back the fallen, except to
5 keep them in our hearts, those loved ones of varying ages who
6 did not survive, including one preschool child; and

7 WHEREAS, in Elmore County we mourn the deaths of two
8 sisters, Alice Lee and Rebecca Woodall; a mother and daughter,
9 Martha Myers and Melissa "Missy" Gantt; and Candice Abernathy,
10 with her five-year-old daughter, Tammy Abernathy; and

11 WHEREAS, in the midst of our grief, we pay homage to
12 the values of faith, family, and community as integral parts
13 of our lives, sustaining us through our darkest hours; now
14 therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we mourn the deaths of our
17 beloved Elmore County neighbors and convey heartfelt sympathy
18 to their families, along with prayerful concern for the
19 injured who remain in peril.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we proudly commend the
21 indomitable spirit of the people of Elmore County and the
22 State of Alabama, as volunteers and donors step forth to begin
23 the process of rebuilding.