

1 HJR265
2 151696-2
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Colston
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 10-APR-13

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
COMMENDING OFFICER ADAM OWENS OF THE BIRMINGHAM
POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2013 ALABAMA
LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
recognize Officer Adam Owens of the Birmingham Police
Department as a nominee for the 2013 Alabama Legislative Medal
of Honor for Law Enforcement, Alabama's highest law
enforcement award for extraordinary courage in the line of
duty; and

WHEREAS, Officer Owens is a three-year veteran of
the Birmingham Police Department; and

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2012, in the early morning
hours, an armed suspect entered St. Vincent's Hospital, taking
an on-duty security guard hostage, and began to terrorize
hospital staff and patients as he made his way through the
hospital; and

WHEREAS, Officer Owens was one of five officers
assigned to the South Precinct who arrived on the scene and
instantly realized that they were dealing with an active
shooter situation; without hesitation, he and the other
officers made their way to the 5th Floor, where they believed
the suspect to be; as they neared a bank of elevators, they

1 came face to face with him, and he immediately began firing on
2 them; and

3 WHEREAS, in the hail of gunfire that ensued, two
4 hospital employees and Officer Owens were wounded by the
5 suspect; fortunately, the officers were able to stop the
6 actions of the suspect without any additional officers or
7 innocent persons being injured; and

8 WHEREAS, less than 24 hours previous to this event,
9 the nation had witnessed the very worst that man can do, with
10 the tragic results of an active shooter at the Shady Hook
11 Elementary School in Connecticut; however, in Birmingham,
12 Alabama, the nation bore witness to what everyday heroes are
13 capable of doing; and

14 WHEREAS, the five professional police officers in
15 Birmingham knew that there was an active shooter in the
16 hospital; they knew that with active shooters, there was a
17 high probability they could be injured; they also knew that if
18 they did not take immediate action, innocent people could be
19 killed; and

20 WHEREAS, these five brave police officers stood
21 between danger and the helpless, knowingly putting themselves
22 in the line of fire and averting a tragedy that could have
23 claimed many lives; each displayed determination and courage
24 in the face of an extremely dangerous situation and together

1 their quick actions and disregard for their personal safety
2 saved the lives of untold innocent people; and

3 WHEREAS, Officer Owens is a worthy exemplar of those
4 caring and dedicated men and women who stand ever ready to
5 provide prompt and professional response in times of crisis,
6 and he is highly deserving of this distinguished nomination
7 for the Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement; now
8 therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and honor
11 Officer Adam Owens of the Birmingham Police Department as a
12 nominee for the 2013 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law
13 Enforcement and direct that he receive a copy of this
14 resolution as evidence of our admiration and esteem.

