

1 HJR341  
2 160508-2  
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Colston  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 18-MAR-14

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,  
                  COMMENDING OFFICER ZACHARY BLANTON OF THE DECATUR  
CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2014 ALABAMA  
LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

          WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we  
recognize Officer Zachary Blanton of the Decatur City Police  
Department as a nominee for the 2014 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 Blanton was the primary responding  
officer to Sandra Coleman's report that her ex-boyfriend was  
trying to force his way into her residence on June 28, 2013;  
and

          WHEREAS, upon arrival, Officer Blanton observed  
flames and heavy smoke coming from the residence; Mrs. Coleman  
and one of her children were standing outside; Mrs. Coleman  
attempted to run back into the residence for her other child,  
but Officer Blanton prevented her from doing so; and

          WHEREAS, even though no other responders had arrived  
on the scene, Officer Blanton ran into the smoke filled  
residence and guided Mrs. Coleman's eight-year-old son to

1 safety; without hesitation, Officer Blanton ventured back into  
2 the apartment and rescued the child's puppy; and

3 WHEREAS, by this time, fire personnel had arrived  
4 and put out the fire; due to Officer Blanton's meritorious  
5 actions, Mrs. Coleman, her children, and their pet were  
6 unharmed; Officer Blanton and other officers located the  
7 ex-boyfriend and arrested him for domestic violence; and

8 WHEREAS, Officer Blanton's noble demonstration of  
9 deft-thinking, bravery, and immense dedication to duty  
10 preserved lives; his protective attitude and respect for all  
11 forms of life motivated him to risk his own life to save a  
12 small dog that belonged to a child he did not even know; and

13 WHEREAS, for his exemplary service, Officer Blanton  
14 received the Medal of Merit, the Decatur City Police  
15 Department's second highest honor; and

16 WHEREAS, Officer Blanton is a worthy exemplar of  
17 those caring and dedicated men and women who stand ever ready  
18 to provide prompt and professional response in times of  
19 crisis, and he is highly deserving of this distinguished  
20 nomination for the Legislative Medal of Honor for Law  
21 Enforcement; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and honor  
24 Decatur Officer Zachary Blanton as a nominee for the 2014  
25 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement and direct that

1       he receive a copy of this resolution as a token of our  
2       admiration and esteem.

