

1 HR324  
2 169819-1  
3 By Representative Nordgren  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 02-JUN-15

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8 COMMENDING THE ETOWAH COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD FOR ITS  
9 VALIANT RESCUE EFFORTS.

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11 WHEREAS, on Saturday, April 25, 2015, 25-year-old  
12 kayaker Dakota Brett Crandall was lost in the waters of Big  
13 Wills Creek in Etowah County, Alabama, near the dam at the old  
14 steel plant pump station off of Brooke Avenue; and

15 WHEREAS, a fellow kayaker called for help and  
16 members of the Etowah County Rescue Squad were brought in to  
17 help drag the creek in search of the kayaker, who was presumed  
18 to have drowned when he was swept away in the rain-swollen  
19 creek; and

20 WHEREAS, while the rescue squad was conducting  
21 dragging operations late Saturday afternoon one of the  
22 flat-bottom boats containing squad members got too close to  
23 the dam and the turbulent waters swamped the boat, causing it  
24 to capsize; and

25 WHEREAS, another squad boat moved in to help the  
26 squad members and the second boat also capsized, leaving nine

1 squad members in the water, one member without a life vest as  
2 it had been stripped off by the force of the water; and

3 WHEREAS, five members came out of the water  
4 relatively uninjured; of the four members taken to local  
5 hospitals three were released, but squad member Vicky Ryan, a  
6 46-year-old wife and mother, tragically lost her life from the  
7 injuries she sustained during the rescue mission; and

8 WHEREAS, in addition to Vicky Ryan, the members of  
9 the Etowah County Rescue Squad include Captain Mike Bettis,  
10 David Ellis, Houston Ryan, David Minton, Robert Collier,  
11 Patrick Brock, William Cambron, Len Troman, Gail Troman, Brad  
12 Nolt, Matthew Howard, Lori Phillips, Johnny Phillips, Tim  
13 Still, Jonathon Belyeu, Anna Hill, Dennis Parr, Magnum  
14 Waldrop, David Whitten, Charles Moore, Matt Nelson, James  
15 Miller, James Self, Lane Kelton, Shannon Kelton, Wayne Garmon,  
16 David Kelton, Melissa Davis, and David Quarrels; and

17 WHEREAS, we extend our deepest gratitude to the  
18 Etowah County Rescue Squad members, who selflessly assisted in  
19 this rescue effort and helped their community in its time of  
20 need; these honorable men and women personify the finest  
21 qualities of the dauntless first-responders who dedicate their  
22 lives to the safety and well-being of their fellow citizens;  
23 now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we honor and commend the  
26 Etowah County Rescue Squad members for their outstanding  
27 service in the rescue efforts on Big Wills Creek, exemplifying

1 the highest ideals of caring and heroism, and, by copy of this  
2 resolution, we convey our admiration and appreciation for  
3 their valor.