

1 HJR252
2 176666-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Rowe
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 07-APR-16

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8 COMMENDING DEPUTY STEPHEN THOMAS OF THE CULLMAN
9 COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2016 ALABAMA
10 LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.
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12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
13 recognize Deputy Stephen Thomas of the Cullman County
14 Sheriff's Department as a nominee for the 2016 Alabama
15 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement, Alabama's
16 highest law enforcement award for extraordinary courage in the
17 line of duty; and

18 WHEREAS, on December 27, 2014, Deputy Stephen Thomas
19 was dispatched to a call in the Holly Pond community to assist
20 local Emergency Medical Services and rapid responders with a
21 male individual who was exhibiting signs of mental instability
22 and threatening to harm others in the area; the individual's
23 anger escalated, he exited the residence, and proceeded
24 towards Deputy Thomas and Deputy Ryan Fortenberry in a
25 threatening manner brandishing a samurai sword; as the
26 individual continued to approach the deputies yelling,
27 behaving in an irrational manner, and intending to do physical

1 harm to others with the sword, the deputies remained calm and
2 asked the individual to stop and drop the weapon; when the
3 individual failed to comply and continued to advance, Deputy
4 Fortenberry deployed his taser; the taser had no affect in
5 deterring the individual and he continued to advance towards
6 Deputy Fortenberry; Deputy Thomas fired his weapon stopping
7 the assailant and saved the life of fellow Deputy Fortenberry
8 and others on the scene; and

9 WHEREAS, placed in a life-threatening situation and
10 without a moment's hesitation, Deputy Stephen Thomas placed
11 himself in the line of peril and stopped the individual from
12 killing Deputy Fortenberry and harming others; and

13 WHEREAS, Deputy Stephen Thomas demonstrated immense
14 courage, diligence, and quick response in a life-threatening
15 situation; his loyalty and unwavering commitment to protect
16 and serve the residents of Cullman County were evidenced
17 through his willingness to make the quick and proper response
18 in order to preserve the life of others; and

19 WHEREAS, Deputy Stephen Thomas epitomizes the
20 qualities of those who serve and protect, and he is truly
21 deserving of this distinguished nomination for the Legislative
22 Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and honor
25 Deputy Stephen Thomas as a nominee for the 2016 Legislative
26 Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement and direct that he receive

1 a copy of this resolution as evidence of our admiration and
2 esteem.