

1 HR361
2 177695-1
3 By Representative Weaver
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 27-APR-16

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8 COMMENDING JAY-EL SHEPHERD ON WINNING THE 2016
9 ALABAMA SCHOLASTIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP.

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11 WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations
12 are herein proudly presented to 16-year-old Jay-El Shepherd, a
13 home-schooled senior from Brierfield, Alabama, on his
14 outstanding achievement of winning the 2016 Scholastic Chess
15 Championship; and

16 WHEREAS, Jay-El Shepherd was one of 230 K-12 grade
17 contestants who hailed from all over the state to play in the
18 prestigious tournament on March 19-20 at Indian Springs School
19 in Pelham, Alabama; and

20 WHEREAS, while facing some challenges in the last
21 round, Jay-El began praying, submitting himself to the Lord's
22 will regarding the outcome of the game, and tweaking his
23 strategy; his new strategy and boost in faith propelled him to
24 emerge as victor of the tournament; and

25 WHEREAS, as a result of his monumental win, he has
26 received a nomination from the Alabama Chess Federation to

1 play in the GM Arnold Denker Tournament of High School
2 Champions in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

3 WHEREAS, Jay-El began playing chess around the age
4 of five; by age seven, he was teaching the game to older
5 children; his interest in chess increased in 2010 when he
6 began playing online; and

7 WHEREAS, Jay-El's first tournament was the 6th
8 Annual Magic City Classic in 2013; he sometimes plays chess
9 with Dr. Scott Varagona, an assistant professor of mathematics
10 at the University of Montevallo and the current Alabama State
11 Chess Champion; and

12 WHEREAS, notably, Jay-El is laudably serving his
13 community as a member of the Brierfield Volunteer Fire
14 Department and is currently enrolled in a four-month
15 firefighter training program; and

16 WHEREAS, Jay-El Shepherd is a role model whose
17 diligence and unwavering commitment to excellence inspire
18 countless others and are a tremendous source of credit to the
19 entire State of Alabama; he is truly deserving of commendation
20 and praise; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Jay-El Shepherd is honored and
23 commended, and this resolution is offered to him in highest
24 tribute, along with sincere best wishes for continued success
25 in all future endeavors.