

1 HR291
2 185341-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Rowe
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 18-APR-17

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8 COMMENDING OFFICERS WYTASHA CARTER, WALLACE RUSSELL,
9 SHAUN DEANE, THOMAS LUCAS, JOHN SWINNEY, MARLON TOLLIVER,
10 STEPHEN MOORE, FREDERICK WESLEY, FRANK ALEXANDER, VONRIC
11 SLAUGHTER, AND PAUL IRWIN OF THE BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
12 AS NOMINEES FOR THE 2017 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR
13 FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

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15 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendations that we
16 recognize Officers Wytasha Carter, Wallace Russell, Shaun
17 Deane, Thomas Lucas, John Swinney, Marlon Tolliver, Stephen
18 Moore, Frederick Wesley, Frank Alexander, Vonric Slaughter,
19 and Paul Irwin of the Birmingham Police Department as nominees
20 for the 2017 Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor for Law
21 Enforcement, Alabama's highest law enforcement award for
22 extraordinary courage in the line of duty; and

23 WHEREAS, on April 14, 2017, officers were dispatched
24 to a residence where the roof had collapsed with several
25 children trapped inside; several officers rushed to the front
26 entrance and were informed by the grandmother that two little
27 girls were trapped inside the home; officers began uncovering

1 the little girls by hand while keeping the surrounding wood,
2 roofing, and chimney materials from falling. The first child,
3 a five-year-old girl, was removed from inside a couch while
4 other officers and firefighters lifted several pieces of metal
5 from inside the chimney along with other roofing materials;
6 the officers continued to work desperately to remove the
7 second child who was buried in the debris and appeared to be
8 unconscious; Birmingham Fire and Rescue began resuscitation
9 efforts and put her on a back board; and

10 WHEREAS, if it had not been for the actions of these
11 officers and the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service, two
12 little girls would have died; although the scene was in chaos,
13 each officer gave 100 percent and worked as a team to save
14 these little girls; the images and cries for help will be
15 something that none of them will ever forget; the rescue and
16 recovery will be something everyone involved will carry in
17 their heart; and

18 WHEREAS, the actions of Officers Wytasha Carter,
19 Wallace Russell, Shaun Deane, Thomas Lucas, John Swinney,
20 Marlon Tolliver, Stephen Moore, Frederick Wesley, Frank
21 Alexander, Vonric Slaughter, and Paul Irwin had a tremendous
22 impact on the neighborhood as demonstrated by the neighbors'
23 responses to the actions that occurred on the scene; their
24 actions represent the high standards of the Birmingham Police
25 Department and its goal to protect the citizens and visitors
26 in the City of Birmingham; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
2 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and honor
3 Officers Wytasha Carter, Wallace Russell, Shaun Deane, Thomas
4 Lucas, John Swinney, Marlon Tolliver, Stephen Moore, Frederick
5 Wesley, Frank Alexander, Vonric Slaughter, and Paul Irwin as
6 nominees for the 2017 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law
7 Enforcement and direct that they receive a copy of this
8 resolution as evidence of our admiration and esteem.