

1 HR216
2 201039-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Rowe
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 09-MAY-19

POSTHUMOUSLY COMMENDING MOBILE POLICE OFFICER JUSTIN BILLA AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we recognize Deputy Justin Billa as a recipient of the 2019 Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement, Alabama's highest law enforcement award for extraordinary courage in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2018, Deputy Justin Billa tragically lost his life while responding to a crime at the Ridge Road West area in Mobile, Alabama, where Deputy Billa and other police found a female body, identified as Fonda Poellnitz; through continued investigation, detectives followed up on the whereabouts of Poellnitz's ex-husband, Robert Hollie; police responded to Hollie's residence and observed a vehicle that belonged to Hollie in the driveway; while waiting for additional officers to set up perimeter, Hollie emerged and fired multiple shots, with one round striking Officer Billa; Officer Billa was immediately removed

1 from the scene and transported to the hospital, where he later
2 died; soon thereafter, SWAT members found Hollie deceased
3 inside the residence from a self-inflicted gunshot wound; and

4 WHEREAS, Deputy Billa will be remembered for his
5 immense bravery and his unwavering commitment to protect and
6 serve others; he is truly deserving as a recipient of the 2019
7 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement; now therefore,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
9 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby posthumously
10 recognize and honor Mobile Police Officer Justin Billa for his
11 courage and as a recipient of the 2019 Legislative Medal of
12 Honor of Law Enforcement; we dedicate this resolution to him
13 in utmost gratitude, admiration, and esteem.