

1 HJR172
2 212171-1
3 By Representatives McCutcheon, Faulkner, Carns, Gaston,
4 Clouse, Garrett, Alexander, Allen, Baker, Ball, Bedsole,
5 Blackshear, Boyd, Bracy, Brown (C), Brown (K), Chestnut,
6 Clarke, Coleman, Collins, Crawford, Daniels, Dismukes, Drake,
7 Drummond, Easterbrook, Ellis, England, Estes, Farley, Faust,
8 Fincher, Forte, Givan, Gray, Greer, Grimsley, Hall, Hanes,
9 Harbison, Hill, Hollis, Holmes, Howard, Hurst, Ingram, Isbell,
10 Jackson, Jones (M), Jones (S), Kiel, Kitchens, Lawrence,
11 Ledbetter, Lee, Lipscomb, Lovvorn, Marques, McCampbell,
12 McClammy, McMillan, Meadows, Mooney, Moore (M), Moore (P),
13 Morris, Nordgren, Oliver, Pettus, Poole, Pringle, Rafferty,
14 Reynolds, Rich, Robbins, Robertson, Rogers, Rowe, Sanderford,
15 Scott, Sells, Shaver, Shedd, Shiver, Simpson, Smith, Sorrell,
16 Sorrells, South, Stadthagen, Standridge, Stringer, Sullivan,
17 Treadaway, Wadsworth, Warren, Wheeler, Whitt, Whorton, Wilcox,
18 Wingo, Wood (D) and Wood (R)
19 RFD:
20 First Read: 01-APR-21

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8 RECOGNIZING THE ALABAMA YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION ON
9 APRIL 11, 2021.

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11 WHEREAS, the Alabama Holocaust Commission, in
12 partnership with the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center and
13 The Jewish Community Relations Council of The Birmingham
14 Jewish Federation, will host a 2021 State Yom HaShoah
15 Commemoration on Sunday, April 11, 2021, to observe the
16 passage of Yom HaShoah, which this year falls between the
17 evenings of April 7 and 8; and

18 WHEREAS, Yom HaShoah was instituted by Israel in
19 1951 as a day of commemoration for the six million Jews who
20 perished in the Holocaust, the largest manifestation of hate
21 and intolerance in modern history; and

22 WHEREAS, there is no institutionalized ritual for
23 Yom HaShoah; commemorations may include synagogue services,
24 communal vigils, and educational programs; the lighting of
25 memorial candles and reciting of prayers for the departed are
26 generally featured in the solemn ceremony; and

1 WHEREAS, this year's ceremony will include a
2 broadcast of various speakers, including government officials,
3 figures from the Alabama Jewish community, and stories of
4 Holocaust survivors and liberators; the ceremony will also
5 include the rededication of a newly planted Anne Frank Tree in
6 Birmingham's Kelly Ingram Park, in memory of the tree in Anne
7 Frank's garden that she believed symbolized freedom and
8 nature; and

9 WHEREAS, among the speakers at this year's event
10 will be Pastor Chris Edmonds, son of World War II hero Master
11 Sergeant Roddie Edmonds, who was recently designated by Yad
12 Vashem as "Righteous Among the Nations" for his bravery in
13 saving the lives of Jewish American soldiers in a German
14 prisoner of war camp; and

15 WHEREAS, among the honorees of the ceremony will be
16 Max Steinmetz, survivor of at least five German ghettos or
17 camps, including the infamous Auschwitz, during which time he
18 lost his mother, father, sister, and brother; following his
19 escape and rescue by American forces on May 2, 1945, Mr.
20 Steinmetz dedicated his life to sharing his story and
21 spreading awareness of the horrors he and millions of others
22 endured, in an effort to prevent the same from ever occurring
23 again; Mr. Steinmetz departed this earth on March 4, 2021,
24 after many decades of fulfilling that mission; the ceremony
25 will also commemorate and honor other living and recently
26 departed Holocaust survivors; and

1 WHEREAS, the Alabama Holocaust Commission was
2 established by legislation in 1999 to foster understanding and
3 promote education about the Holocaust; our good friends and
4 colleagues, Representatives David Faulkner and Danny Garrett
5 and Senator Jabo Waggoner, all of Jefferson County, are active
6 members of this commission; and

7 WHEREAS, among the duties of the Alabama Holocaust
8 Commission is the responsibility to enhance public awareness
9 of the consequences and significance of the Holocaust; the
10 enabling act of the commission states that it is the policy of
11 the State of Alabama that Holocaust education is the proper
12 concern of all peoples; and

13 WHEREAS, events such as the 2021 Yom HaShoah
14 Commemoration are consistent with the mission of the Alabama
15 Holocaust Commission providing Holocaust education and
16 focusing on citizen involvement in this commemoration; now
17 therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That on this momentous occasion of
20 the Yom HaShoah Commemoration sponsored by the Alabama
21 Holocaust Commission on April 11, 2021, we recognize and honor
22 the memory of the lives lost in the Holocaust and honor those
23 who survived to share their stories.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That events such as this
25 year's Yom HaShoah Commemoration are vital to enhancing public
26 awareness of the consequences and significance of the
27 Holocaust, and for instilling in our fellow people a sense of

1 understanding of the true cost of hate and intolerance; by
2 growing and learning from the past and extending grace and
3 mercy, we achieve true victory over the evils of this world.