

1 HR25
2 215419-1
3 By Representatives Drake, Carns, Hill, Jones (S), Howard,
4 Hassell, Treadaway and Rafferty
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 01-NOV-21

EXPRESSING OUR SYMPATHY TO THE VICTIMS OF AGENT
ORANGE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and Alabama is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all Americans and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, more than 8 million citizens of this country honorably served during the Vietnam War, during which time Agent Orange was widely used in Vietnam by the United States Armed Forces as part of the herbicidal warfare program, Operation Ranch Hand, from 1961 until 1971; and

1 WHEREAS, nearly 20 million gallons of the orange
2 powder were sprayed over the land from helicopters or
3 low-flying aircraft, destroying vegetation and crops in order
4 to deprive enemy guerillas of food and cover for their
5 activities, which exposed 2.6 million American soldiers to the
6 herbicide and defoliant chemical; and

7 WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a dioxin and cancer-causing
8 chemical that enters the body through physical contact or
9 ingestion and moves into the human cell nucleus, where it
10 attacks the genes and causes a number of serious illnesses,
11 including leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, ischemic, heart
12 disease, soft tissue sarcoma, amyloidosis, and diabetes, as
13 well as cancers of the throat, prostate, lungs, and colon; and

14 WHEREAS, Agent Orange also causes genetic damage,
15 and in some cases, the children and grandchildren of veterans
16 exposed to Agent Orange have been born with spina bifida and
17 other abnormalities; and

18 WHEREAS, today, only 800,000 Vietnam Veterans
19 exposed to Agent Orange survive, and approximately 300 deaths
20 occur among them every day; and

21 WHEREAS, while their fallen comrades are
22 memorialized on the wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in
23 Washington, D.C., those veterans who are victims of Agent
24 Orange are not recognized as fatalities of the Vietnam War;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we honor these
27 veterans to the fullest extent of our ability, as they have

1 made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the
2 liberties that we enjoy today, liberties that we pray our
3 progeny will continue to cherish for generations to come; now
4 therefore,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
6 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That by this resolution, sympathy
7 to the victims of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War be
8 expressed and that their courageous service to our country as
9 some of America's most heroic citizens be honored.