

HR132 INTRODUCED



1 HR132

2 W1W3MEE-1

3 By Representatives Bolton, Travis, Lamb, Almond, Brinyark

4 RFD:

5 First Read: 18-Mar-25



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HR___ HONORING LUCCA, THE K9 WAR DOG, FOR HER HEROISM AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, the Alabama House of Representatives takes great pride in recognizing and honoring those who have shown extraordinary courage and dedication in service to our nation, including the brave military working dogs who serve alongside our troops; and

WHEREAS, Lucca, a German Shepherd-Belgian Malinois mix, served valiantly as a K9 war dog with the United States Marine Corps, dedicating six years of her life to protecting American and allied forces during her deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, during her service, Lucca completed over 400 missions, detecting explosives and saving countless lives with her exceptional skills and unwavering loyalty, without a single human casualty under her watch; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2012, while leading a patrol in Afghanistan, Lucca discovered a hidden improvised explosive device (IED); moments later, a second IED detonated, causing Lucca to lose her front left leg; despite her injury, her bravery and actions ensured the safety of her fellow Marines; and

WHEREAS, following her injury, Lucca was quickly evacuated, received immediate medical care, and began her



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29 recovery with resilience and determination; she was later
30 honorably retired and adopted by her handler, Gunnery
31 Sergeant Chris Willingham; and

32 WHEREAS, Lucca's exceptional service was recognized
33 with numerous accolades, including becoming the first U.S.
34 Marine Corps dog to receive the prestigious Dickin Medal,
35 the highest honor for animals in military conflict; and

36 WHEREAS, Lucca's story continues to inspire Americans
37 with her courage, loyalty, and devotion to duty, embodying
38 the highest values of service and sacrifice that define our
39 military forces; now therefore,

40 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
41 STATE OF ALABAMA, That Lucca, the K9 war dog, is hereby
42 recognized and honored for her extraordinary heroism,
43 service, and sacrifice in defense of our nation.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
45 resolution be presented to Chris Willingham and Juan
46 Rodriguez in recognition of Lucca's remarkable contributions
47 and enduring legacy.