

HR263 INTRODUCED



1 HR263
2 MS8EI1W-1
3 By Representatives Faulkner, Garrett, Carns, Ensler
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 17-Apr-25



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4 HR_____ RECOGNIZING RIVA HIRSCH AS A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR.
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6 WHEREAS, Riva Hirsch, born Riva Schuster, was only
7 seven years old in 1941 when her childhood was violently
8 interrupted by the Nazi occupation of her hometown of
9 Novaseletz, Romania, now modern-day Ukraine, during the
10 Holocaust, a tragedy that would take the lives of over six
11 million Jews and millions of other innocent people; and

12 WHEREAS, after receiving a warning from a family
13 friend, young Riva and her family attempted to flee to
14 safety but were instead captured and transported in
15 overcrowded cattle cars to a Nazi labor camp in Moghilev;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, she endured unimaginable horrors, witnessing
18 death and brutality, suffering from starvation, disease, and
19 the loss of her health, her home, and nearly her life; and

20 WHEREAS, separated from her family and later
21 transported to the Luchinetz labor camp, Riva survived
22 typhus, malaria, lice infestation, and extreme
23 malnourishment; and

24 WHEREAS, during one of many near-death experiences,
25 she was rescued by partisans, hidden in a wagon of hay, and
26 taken to a Catholic convent in Tul'chin where she lived in
27 isolation for two years in a six-foot-square bunker, with
28 rats and mice as her only companions, surviving only on



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bread and pork provided every few days; and

WHEREAS, Riva Schuster was liberated in 1945, carried to the roadside by nuns, and rescued by survivors who brought her to Chernovitz, where she was amazingly reunited with her father and, in time, her mother and two brothers; and

WHEREAS, in her journey to rebuild her life, she boarded a boat to Palestine in 1946, was detained by British forces and spent two years in a refugee camp in Cyprus before reaching Israel in 1948, where she was finally reunited with her family and began the next chapter of her life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hirsch met and married her husband, Aisic Hirsch, also a Holocaust survivor, in Israel in 1950; they were blessed with two children, Harold and Sheryl, and later moved to New York in 1962 to provide the education and opportunities they had been denied; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Mrs. Hirsch and her family relocated to Birmingham, Alabama, where they built a home and legacy rooted in resilience, remembrance, and hope; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Riva Hirsch has remained a tireless advocate for Holocaust education and remembrance, sharing her testimony with younger generations to ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust are never forgotten, and to urge the world to pursue peace, education, and justice; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hirsch, now 91 years old, stands as a living testament to the strength of the human spirit, the



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57 enduring will to survive, and the sacred responsibility of
58 ensuring the past is never forgotten; now therefore,

59 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
60 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we do hereby honor and
61 recognize Riva Hirsch for her extraordinary courage, her
62 contributions to Holocaust remembrance, and her unwavering
63 commitment to ensuring that the lessons of history are never
64 lost to time.