

HJR182 INTRODUCED



1 HJR182
2 ARDPJSS-1
3 By Representatives Ingram, Sells, McClammy, Morris, Hassell
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 24-Feb-26



1
2
3
4 HJR___ RECOGNIZING MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF DERRICK
5 CUNNINGHAM FOR BEING NAMED THE 2026 SHERIFF OF THE YEAR.
6

7 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, we
8 highly honor Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham
9 for being named the 2026 Ferris E. Lucas Sheriff of the Year
10 by the National Sheriffs' Association; and

11 WHEREAS, Derrick Cunningham was born in Tacoma,
12 Washington, and moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with his
13 family when he was 12 years old; prior to graduating from
14 Tuscaloosa County High School, he joined the Alabama
15 National Guard in 1984, proudly serving until he retired
16 with 24 years of service; and

17 WHEREAS, he graduated from the police academy in
18 1989; within 10 years, he had worked his way up to the
19 Detective Division investigating homicides; he later became
20 a member of the International Homicide Investigators
21 Association; in 1999, Montgomery County Sheriff Steve
22 Marshall appointed him as Chief Deputy, and he served in
23 that capacity for 15 years; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2015, he was sworn in as Montgomery
25 County's first African American sheriff; in this capacity,
26 Sheriff Cunningham heads an agency of more than 400
27 employees and a \$50.1 million budget that spans a 643
28 square-mile jurisdiction; for several decades, he has been



HJR182 INTRODUCED

among the most visible supporters of community-based policing, youth mentoring programs, and utilizing smartphone and other technology to better serve the community and reduce crime; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Cunningham earned a Bachelor of Science from Troy University and a Master of Science from the University of Phoenix; he has attended numerous schools and seminars since the start of his law enforcement career; he is a 2007 graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy Class 231; he serves as the point of contact for Homeland Security for Montgomery County, overseeing funding for the county; and

WHEREAS, in September 2015, Sheriff Cunningham graduated from the 108th National Sheriff's Institute in Aurora, Colorado, and two years later he was sworn in as Sergeant of Arms with the Alabama Sheriff's Association; in 2019 Sheriff Cunningham was sworn in as Vice President of the Alabama Sheriff's Association; in January 2020 he was sworn in as President, and he served two consecutive terms until 2022; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Cunningham has been appointed to several statewide committees by the Governor and remains involved in the Montgomery community by serving on several nonprofit agencies, some of which include the Kiwanis Club, YMCA, Tri-County Alzheimer's Association, and the Victims of Crime and Leniency; and he is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated; now therefore,



HJR182 INTRODUCED

56 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
57 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Sheriff Derrick Cunningham
58 is highly honored and commended on being named the 2026
59 Ferris E. Lucas Sheriff of the Year by the National
60 Sheriffs' Association; and we convey deepest admiration and
61 pride for all he has done to protect and honor the State of
62 Alabama and all of its residents.