

# HJR259 ENROLLED



1 HJR259

2 9JT6HBP-2

3 By Representatives Oliver, Paschal, Wood (R), Pettus,

4 Treadaway, Jones, Hassell, Robertson, Starnes, McClammy,

5 Ingram

6 RFD:

7 First Read: 17-Mar-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 OBSERVING MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY AND HONORING MEMBERS OF  
4 THE 99TH AIR REFUELING SQUADRON AND THE 117TH AIR REFUELING  
5 WING.

6

7 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature proudly observes  
8 Military Appreciation Day each year to recognize and honor  
9 the extraordinary service and sacrifice of the men and women  
10 who serve in the United States Armed Forces, including those  
11 on active duty, in the National Guard and Reserve, and those  
12 who have previously served the nation as veterans; and

13 WHEREAS, the people of Alabama maintain a deep and  
14 enduring relationship with the United States military, as  
15 the state is home to military installations including  
16 Redstone Arsenal, Anniston Army Depot, Sumpter Smith Joint  
17 National Guard Base, Maxwell Air Force Base, Dannelly Field,  
18 Fort Rucker, the United States Coast Guard Aviation Training  
19 Center, Fort McClellan Training Center, the Alabama National  
20 Guard Joint Force Headquarters, and numerous additional  
21 military units and organizations that contribute to our  
22 national security; and

23 WHEREAS, Alabama is home to nearly 400,000 veterans,  
24 13,500 active-duty service members, 26,700 National Guard  
25 and Reserve members, and 50,000 military spouses and  
26 dependents, all of whom contribute to the strength and  
27 resilience of our communities and our nation; and

28 WHEREAS, these brave individuals serve around the



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29 world defending freedom, preserving peace, and protecting  
30 the security of the United States and its allies; and

31 WHEREAS, on March 12, 2026, members of the 99th Air  
32 Refueling Squadron tragically lost their lives during combat  
33 operations in service to the United States, demonstrating  
34 the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom and the safety  
35 of our nation; and

36 WHEREAS, the fallen airmen, Major John Alex Klinner,  
37 Captain Ariana Savino, and Technical Sergeant Ashley Pruitt,  
38 served their nation with honor, courage, and devotion to  
39 duty, embodying the highest traditions of the United States  
40 Air Force; and

41 WHEREAS, the members of the Legislature join the  
42 people of this state in honoring the courage, commitment,  
43 and sacrifice of these fallen service members and extend our  
44 deepest condolences to their families, loved ones, fellow  
45 airmen, and the entire 99th Air Refueling Squadron; and

46 WHEREAS, the members of the 99th Air Refueling  
47 Squadron serve as a fully integrated force with the 117th  
48 Air Refueling Wing at Sumpter Smith Joint National Guard  
49 Base in Birmingham, Alabama, working hand-in-hand with  
50 Alabama National Guard personnel as part of a unified  
51 mission, and the "Vulcan Refuelers" are regarded as an  
52 enduring part of Alabama's military family; now therefore,

53 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
54 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Legislature hereby  
55 recognizes March 19, 2026, as Military Appreciation Day and  
56 expresses its profound gratitude to all members of the



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57 United States Armed Forces, past and present, for their  
58 honorable service to our nation.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama Legislature  
60 solemnly honors the memory and sacrifice of Major John Alex  
61 Klinner, Captain Ariana Savino, and Technical Sergeant  
62 Ashley Pruitt of the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, who lost  
63 their lives on March 12, 2026, recognizing their bravery and  
64 devotion to duty as an enduring example of service above  
65 self.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature extends  
67 its heartfelt sympathies and prayers to the families of  
68 these fallen airmen, the members of the 99th Air Refueling  
69 Squadron, the members of the 117th Air Refueling Wing, and  
70 the entire United States Air Force community.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
72 resolution be delivered to the command leadership of the  
73 99th Air Refueling Squadron at Sumpter Smith Joint National  
74 Guard Base, the Alabama National Guard, and the families of  
75 the fallen airmen as a token of the Legislature's highest  
76 respect and appreciation.

