

## HJR259 INTRODUCED



1 HJR259

2 9JT6HBP-1

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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HJR\_\_\_ OBSERVING MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY AND HONORING MEMBERS OF THE 99TH AIR REFUELING SQUADRON AND THE 117TH AIR REFUELING WING.

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

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

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



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29 WHEREAS, these brave individuals serve around the  
30 world defending freedom, preserving peace, and protecting  
31 the security of the United States and its allies; and

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

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

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

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

54 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
55 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Legislature hereby  
56 recognizes March 19, 2026, as Military Appreciation Day and



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57 expresses its profound gratitude to all members of the  
58 United States Armed Forces, past and present, for their  
59 honorable service to our nation.

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

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

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