

HR340 INTRODUCED



1 HR340

2 JPMQ2FY-1

3 By Representatives Faulkner, Garrett, Carns

4 RFD:

5 First Read: 07-Apr-26



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HR_____ RECOGNIZING JACK SCHNIPER AS A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR.

WHEREAS, Jack Schniper was born in a Ukrainian work camp on March 18, 1945; his mere existence is a miracle; although he never knew the uncertainty and hardships his parents experienced, he lives with that legacy every day; and

WHEREAS, his family's story began in Rowno, Poland, where Jack's father, Chaim, was born in 1906; the Nazis invaded in 1939 and anti-Jewish legislation resulted in Chaim's expulsion from medical school; in 1941 alone, 15,000 Jews of Rowno were killed; during one of these purges, Chaim lost his wife and two young daughters; he was left for dead but rescued by a Catholic family; Chaim fled Poland and eventually ended up in a work camp in Cherson, Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, Jack's mother, Chana, was born in 1920 and was also from Rowno; after the Germans invaded their town, she, her mother, and her sister, along with her sister's one-year-old baby, had to separate and go into different hiding places; Chana was hidden for a year by a Christian farmer; she lived in a pit in the ground, emerging only at night; she later learned that her mother, sister, and little nephew had been captured and killed, meaning that she was the only survivor from her immediate family; and

WHEREAS, although the interim events are unknown,



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29 Chana was sent to the Cherson work camp, where she met and
30 married Chaim; Jack was born in the camp three months before
31 the war ended; the young family was able to escape one
32 night, ultimately ending up in Germany after the war; Jack's
33 brother, Abe, was born in Ulm, Germany, two years later; and

34 WHEREAS, the Schnipers came to Birmingham in 1950,
35 sponsored by the Jewish community; Chaim and Chana loved
36 America; they learned English in night school, but still
37 spoke Yiddish at home; Chaim packed home furnishings in a
38 warehouse, and with help from the Jewish community, opened
39 Schniper's Dry Goods; in 1955, the Schnipers became U.S.
40 citizens, and they welcomed a third son, Steve, the first of
41 their family to be born in the U.S.; and

42 WHEREAS, Jack grew up working in the family business;
43 he attended The University of Alabama, The University of
44 Alabama at Birmingham, and Samford University, and he served
45 in the Air National Guard; a retail man like his father,
46 Jack started his career at Blach's Department Store while he
47 was still in school, and later he became an independent
48 wholesale representative; he married his wife, Leigh, in
49 1969; they have three sons and two grandsons; and

50 WHEREAS, Jack's parents, Chaim and Chana, rarely
51 discussed their past with their children; Jack says he
52 survived only because of them; their story is his story; and

53 WHEREAS, Jack Schniper, now 81 years old, stands as a
54 living testament to the strength of the human spirit, the
55 enduring will to survive, and the sacred responsibility of
56 ensuring the past is never forgotten; now therefore,



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57 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
58 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby honor and recognize
59 Jack Schniper for contributing to Holocaust remembrance by
60 sharing his testimony with younger generations, ensuring
61 that the horrors of the Holocaust and the lessons of history
62 are not lost to time.