

1 HJR252
2 176666-2
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Rowe
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 07-APR-16

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 COMMENDING DEPUTY STEPHEN THOMAS OF THE CULLMAN
4 COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2016 ALABAMA
5 LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.
6

7 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
8 recognize Deputy Stephen Thomas of the Cullman County
9 Sheriff's Department as a nominee for the 2016 Alabama
10 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement, Alabama's
11 highest law enforcement award for extraordinary courage in the
12 line of duty; and

13 WHEREAS, on December 27, 2014, Deputy Stephen Thomas
14 was dispatched to a call in the Holly Pond community to assist
15 local Emergency Medical Services and rapid responders with a
16 male individual who was exhibiting signs of mental instability
17 and threatening to harm others in the area; the individual's
18 anger escalated, he exited the residence, and proceeded
19 towards Deputy Thomas and Deputy Ryan Fortenberry in a
20 threatening manner brandishing a samurai sword; as the
21 individual continued to approach the deputies yelling,
22 behaving in an irrational manner, and intending to do physical
23 harm to others with the sword, the deputies remained calm and
24 asked the individual to stop and drop the weapon; when the
25 individual failed to comply and continued to advance, Deputy

1 Fortenberry deployed his taser; the taser had no affect in
2 deterring the individual and he continued to advance towards
3 Deputy Fortenberry; Deputy Thomas fired his weapon stopping
4 the assailant and saved the life of fellow Deputy Fortenberry
5 and others on the scene; and

6 WHEREAS, placed in a life-threatening situation and
7 without a moment's hesitation, Deputy Stephen Thomas placed
8 himself in the line of peril and stopped the individual from
9 killing Deputy Fortenberry and harming others; and

10 WHEREAS, Deputy Stephen Thomas demonstrated immense
11 courage, diligence, and quick response in a life-threatening
12 situation; his loyalty and unwavering commitment to protect
13 and serve the residents of Cullman County were evidenced
14 through his willingness to make the quick and proper response
15 in order to preserve the life of others; and

16 WHEREAS, Deputy Stephen Thomas epitomizes the
17 qualities of those who serve and protect, and he is truly
18 deserving of this distinguished nomination for the Legislative
19 Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and honor
22 Deputy Stephen Thomas as a nominee for the 2016 Legislative
23 Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement and direct that he receive
24 a copy of this resolution as evidence of our admiration and
25 esteem.

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