

1 HJR303  
2 185429-3  
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Rowe  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 18-APR-17

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3           COMMENDING OFFICERS WYTASHA CARTER, WALLACE RUSSELL,  
4           SHAUN DEANE, THOMAS LUCAS, JOHN SWINNEY, MARLON TOLLIVER,  
5           STEPHEN MOORE, FREDERICK WESLEY, FRANK ALEXANDER, VONRIC  
6           SLAUGHTER, AND PAUL IRWIN OF THE BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT  
7           AS NOMINEES FOR THE 2017 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR  
8           FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

9  
10           WHEREAS, it is with highest commendations that we  
11           recognize Officers Wytasha Carter, Wallace Russell, Shaun  
12           Deane, Thomas Lucas, John Swinney, Marlon Tolliver, Stephen  
13           Moore, Frederick Wesley, Frank Alexander, Vonric Slaughter,  
14           and Paul Irwin of the Birmingham Police Department as nominees  
15           for the 2017 Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor for Law  
16           Enforcement, Alabama's highest law enforcement award for  
17           extraordinary courage in the line of duty; and

18           WHEREAS, on April 14, 2017, officers were dispatched  
19           to a residence where the roof had collapsed with several  
20           children trapped inside; several officers rushed to the front  
21           entrance and were informed by the grandmother that two little  
22           girls were trapped inside the home; officers began uncovering  
23           the little girls by hand while keeping the surrounding wood,  
24           roofing, and chimney materials from falling. The first child,  
25           a five-year-old girl, was removed from inside a couch while

1 other officers and firefighters lifted several pieces of metal  
2 from inside the chimney along with other roofing materials;  
3 the officers continued to work desperately to remove the  
4 second child who was buried in the debris and appeared to be  
5 unconscious; Birmingham Fire and Rescue began resuscitation  
6 efforts and put her on a back board; and

7 WHEREAS, if it had not been for the actions of these  
8 officers and the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service, two  
9 little girls would have died; although the scene was in chaos,  
10 each officer gave 100 percent and worked as a team to save  
11 these little girls; the images and cries for help will be  
12 something that none of them will ever forget; the rescue and  
13 recovery will be something everyone involved will carry in  
14 their heart; and

15 WHEREAS, the actions of Officers Wytasha Carter,  
16 Wallace Russell, Shaun Deane, Thomas Lucas, John Swinney,  
17 Marlon Tolliver, Stephen Moore, Frederick Wesley, Frank  
18 Alexander, Vonric Slaughter, and Paul Irwin had a tremendous  
19 impact on the neighborhood as demonstrated by the neighbors'  
20 responses to the actions that occurred on the scene; their  
21 actions represent the high standards of the Birmingham Police  
22 Department and its goal to protect the citizens and visitors  
23 in the City of Birmingham; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING,

1       That we hereby recognize and honor Officers Wytasha Carter,  
2       Wallace Russell, Shaun Deane, Thomas Lucas, John Swinney,  
3       Marlon Tolliver, Stephen Moore, Frederick Wesley, Frank  
4       Alexander, Vonric Slaughter, and Paul Irwin as nominees for  
5       the 2017 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement and  
6       direct that they receive a copy of this resolution as evidence  
7       of our admiration and esteem.

