

1 HJR426
2 141808-1
3 By Representatives Merrill, Baker, Ball, Bandy, Barton,
4 Baughn, Beckman, Beech, Black, Boman, Boothe, Boyd, Bracy,
5 Bridges, Brown, Burdine, Buskey, Buttram, Carns, Chesteen,
6 Clouse, Coleman, Collins, Colston, Davis, DeMarco, Drake,
7 England, Farley, Faust, Fincher, Ford, Forte, Galliher,
8 Gaston, Givan, Greer, Greeson, Grimsley, Hall, Hammon, Harper,
9 Henry, Hill, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard (J), Hubbard (M), Hurst,
10 Ison, Jackson, Johnson (K), Johnson (R), Johnson (W), Jones,
11 Kennedy, Knight, Laird, Lee, Lindsey, Long, Love, Mask,
12 McAdory, McCampbell, McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin,
13 McCutcheon, McMillan, Melton, Millican, Mitchell, Moore (B),
14 Moore (M), Morrow, Newton (C), Newton (D), Nordgren, Oden,
15 Patterson, Payne, Poole, Rich, Roberts, Robinson (J), Robinson
16 (O), Rogers, Sanderford, Scott, Sessions, Shiver, Thomas,
17 Todd, Treadaway, Tuggle, Vance, Wallace, Warren, Weaver,
18 Williams (D), Williams (J), Williams (P), Wood and Wren
19 RFD:
20 First Read: 26-APR-12

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 RECOGNIZING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEVASTATING
9 TORNADOS OF APRIL 27, 2011, AND COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING
10 EFFORTS OF FIRST RESPONDERS STATEWIDE.
11

12 WHEREAS, in recognition of observing the first
13 anniversary of the unprecedented tornadoes that ravaged our
14 state, it is appropriate to honor all the first responders --
15 paid and volunteer firefighters and medics, law enforcement
16 personnel, and city work crews -- as well as the church
17 groups, civic organizations, and private citizens whose
18 actions saved countless Alabamians and thereby kept the loss
19 of life statewide to no more than the number recorded, a
20 tragic toll exceeding 247 that could have been worse; and

21 WHEREAS, on April 27, 2011, the EF5 tornado that
22 devastated Alabama reached wind peaks in excess of 210 miles
23 per hour and carved a path more than 1.25 miles wide,
24 resulting in the worst natural disaster ever to hit the State
25 of Alabama and one of the most destructive tornadoes in United
26 States history; and

1 WHEREAS, with first responders setting the pace, the
2 people of Alabama came together to rescue victims, to secure
3 homes and businesses, to salvage properties, and to begin the
4 overwhelming task of attempting to restore the shattered
5 communities to a sense of normalcy; and

6 WHEREAS, volunteers followed the lead of our
7 exceptionally competent professionals, donating countless
8 hours of service and creating a spirit not just of survival
9 but of revitalization; as the days passed, in addition to
10 neighbors helping neighbors, the kindness of strangers became
11 a reality, providing an unexpected dimension to the values of
12 faith, family, and community that traditionally sustain us;
13 now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That no words can convey the depth
16 of gratitude owed to our first responders and to all the
17 selfless, tireless individuals who worked together toward
18 recovery, but it is nevertheless in highest tribute to them
19 that we hereby recognize the first anniversary of the April
20 27, 2011, tornado outbreak that devastated the State of
21 Alabama.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
23 resolution be provided for appropriate display, as evidence of
24 the admiration and appreciation of the people of the State of
25 Alabama for our valiant firefighters, medics, and law
26 enforcement personnel.