

1 HJR614
2 131586-2
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Ball, McCutcheon, Patterson,
4 Johnson (W), Williams (P) and Hall
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 24-MAY-11

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 RECOGNIZING ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION CHURCH: 150
4 YEARS, OLDEST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NORTH ALABAMA.

5
6 WHEREAS, we take great pride in recognizing St. Mary
7 of the Visitation Church as the oldest Catholic Church in
8 North Alabama; it had its beginning on October 13, 1861, when
9 the Bishop John Quinlan from Mobile laid the cornerstone; and

10 WHEREAS, many Catholics began to flock to the
11 Huntsville area after Alabama was given statehood in 1819; in
12 the early 1830s, Bishop Michael Portier commissioned two
13 priests to visit North Alabama and when they did not find one
14 Catholic Church, he sent for surveys to find the most suitable
15 place for a new Church to be built, and an area near
16 Huntsville with about 30 families was chosen; Bishop Quinlan
17 funded the building project and construction began in July of
18 1861; construction was slow and was delayed due to the Civil
19 War; and

20 WHEREAS, St. Mary of the Visitation has remained in
21 the same location for 150 years, remaining one of the oldest
22 Catholic Churches in North Alabama and has served as a Mother
23 Church for the development of numerous churches in the region;
24 many church members and clergy have served the people in the

1 area and have provided religious and educational services for
2 many years to keep the church viable; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That, by copy of this resolution,
5 we commend the devotion of the members of the St. Mary of the
6 Visitation Church which has continued to be a tremendous asset
7 to the Huntsville community for 150 years.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 25-MAY-11.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate

31-MAY-11

Adopted