

1 HR175
2 168332-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Rowe
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 28-APR-15

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 COMMENDING OFFICER JOSH HEFLIN OF THE DECATUR POLICE
9 DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2015 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE MEDAL
10 OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

11
12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
13 recognize Officer Josh Heflin of the Decatur Police Department
14 as a nominee for the 2015 Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor
15 for Law Enforcement, Alabama's highest law enforcement award
16 for extraordinary courage in the line of duty; and

17 WHEREAS, while waiting on an officer he was
18 assisting on a call to return to the scene of a traffic
19 incident on March 19, 2014, around 8:58 p.m., Officer Heflin
20 was approached by a female, identified as Karmen Hill, who
21 stated her house was on fire and requested a fire
22 extinguisher; Officer Heflin gazed towards Hill's house
23 located at 819 19th Avenue and noticed heaving smoke and
24 flames billowing from the backside of the residence; and

25 WHEREAS, Officer Heflin immediately radioed dispatch
26 and called for the fire department; he learned from Hill that
27 her brother, Keith Harris, was still inside the residence and

1 had last been seen in the area of the kitchen, where the fire
2 had originated; Officer Heflin then went to the residence and
3 attempted to locate Harris; and

4 WHEREAS, without a moment's thought, Officer Heflin
5 entered the burning residence and located Harris through
6 heavy, dense smoke in the area of the kitchen; Officer Heflin
7 grabbed Harris, who appeared to be confused and was suffering
8 from smoke inhalation, by the waist and placed Harris' arms
9 over Officer Heflin's shoulders, before leading Harris safely
10 out of the house; and

11 WHEREAS, Decatur Fire and Rescue treated Harris on
12 the scene for smoke inhalation and battled the blaze; the
13 residence sustained severe damage from the fire; and

14 WHEREAS, Officer Heflin demonstrated quick thinking,
15 diligence, and courageous determination and went over and
16 beyond expectation to preserve a life; and

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

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and honor
23 Officer Josh Heflin as a nominee for the 2015 Legislative
24 Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement and direct that he receive
25 a copy of this resolution as evidence of our admiration and
26 esteem.