

1 HR252
2 219723-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Reynolds and Baker
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-APR-22

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8 COMMENDING LIMESTONE COUNTY'S SHERIFF DEPUTY JAKE
9 ABERNATHY AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2022 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE MEDAL
10 OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.
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12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
13 recognize Limestone County's Sheriff Deputy Jake Abernathy as
14 a nominee for the 2022 Alabama Legislative Law Enforcement
15 Medal of Honor, Alabama's highest law enforcement award for
16 extraordinary courage in the line of duty; and

17 WHEREAS, Deputy Abernathy's heroic actions on July
18 15, 2021, assisted in saving the life of a swimmer drowning
19 near the Easter Ferry Bridge in Limestone County, Alabama;
20 responding to the call, while off duty and on his way home
21 after working his own shift, Deputy Abernathy arrived first at
22 the perilous scene to find a struggling swimmer about 800
23 yards from the bridge; Deputy Abernathy began attempting to
24 rescue the swimmer; despite his best efforts and because of
25 the swift current of the river, Deputy Abernathy lost his grip
26 on the swimmer, who subsequently floated down river; Deputy
27 Abernathy again courageously swam to the individual, grabbed

1 him, and pulled him as far as he could near the shoreline, but
2 they both began to go under the water; and

3 WHEREAS, at this point, his colleague, Deputy Lucas
4 Ferrell arrived on the scene and without regard to his own
5 safety, entered the tumultuous water, swam to Deputy
6 Abernathy's location in the river, and was able to help him
7 and then gain control of the victim who was in and out of
8 consciousness; Deputy Abernathy, along with Deputy Ferrell,
9 brought the swimmer close to the shoreline; with the
10 assistance of other first responders on the scene, the swimmer
11 was pulled from the water to safety; Deputy Abernathy's
12 selfless actions led to the swimmer being rescued and then
13 transported to a hospital, where he made a full recovery; and

14 WHEREAS, there is no greater accomplishment than to
15 seek to successfully rescue a fellow citizen whose life is
16 imperiled; Deputy Abernathy is a worthy exemplar of those
17 caring and dedicated men and women who stand ever ready to
18 provide prompt and professional response in times of crisis,
19 and he is highly deserving of this distinguished nomination
20 for the Legislative Medal of Honor; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and honor
23 Limestone County's Sheriff Deputy Jake Abernathy as a nominee
24 for the 2022 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement
25 and a copy of this resolution is a token of our high
26 admiration and esteem.