

1 HR260  
2 176637-1  
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Rowe  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 07-APR-16

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8 COMMENDING DEPUTY STEPHEN THOMAS OF THE CULLMAN  
9 COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2016 ALABAMA  
10 LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.  
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12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we  
13 recognize Deputy Stephen Thomas of the Cullman County  
14 Sheriff's Department as a nominee for the 2016 Alabama  
15 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement, Alabama's  
16 highest law enforcement award for extraordinary courage in the  
17 line of duty; and

18 WHEREAS, on December 27, 2014, Deputy Stephen Thomas  
19 was dispatched to a call in the Holly Pond community to assist  
20 local Emergency Medical Services and rapid responders with a  
21 male individual who was exhibiting signs of mental instability  
22 and threatening to harm others in the area; the individual's  
23 anger escalated, he exited the residence, and proceeded  
24 towards Deputy Thomas and Deputy Ryan Fortenberry in a  
25 threatening manner brandishing a samurai sword; as the  
26 individual continued to approach the deputies yelling,

1 behaving in an irrational manner, and intending to do physical  
2 harm to others with the sword, the deputies remained calm and  
3 asked the individual to stop and drop the weapon; when the  
4 individual failed to comply and continued to advance, Deputy  
5 Fortenberry deployed his taser; the taser had no affect in  
6 deterring the individual and he continued to advance towards  
7 Deputy Fortenberry; Deputy Thomas fired his weapon stopping  
8 the assailant and saved the life of fellow Deputy Fortenberry  
9 and others on the scene; and

10 WHEREAS, placed in a life-threatening situation and  
11 without a moment's hesitation, Deputy Stephen Thomas placed  
12 himself in the line of peril and stopped the individual from  
13 killing Deputy Fortenberry and harming others; and

14 WHEREAS, Deputy Stephen Thomas demonstrated immense  
15 courage, diligence, and quick response in a life-threatening  
16 situation; his loyalty and unwavering commitment to protect  
17 and serve the residents of Cullman County were evidenced  
18 through his willingness to make the quick and proper response  
19 in order to preserve the life of others; and

20 WHEREAS, Deputy Stephen Thomas epitomizes the  
21 qualities of those who serve and protect, and he is truly  
22 deserving of this distinguished nomination for the Legislative  
23 Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and honor  
26 Deputy Stephen Thomas as a nominee for the 2016 Legislative

1 Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement and direct that he receive  
2 a copy of this resolution as evidence of our admiration and  
3 esteem.