

1 HR271
2 176857-1
3 By Representative Garrett
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 12-APR-16

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8 HONORING HOLY INFANT OF PRAGUE CATHOLIC CHURCH ON
9 THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY.

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11 WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein proudly
12 presented to Holy Infant of Prague Catholic Church on the
13 momentous occasion of its 75th Anniversary; and

14 WHEREAS, a 75th Anniversary is a special milestone
15 which provides a golden opportunity to reflect upon the rich
16 history of the church and its congregation; and

17 WHEREAS, Holy Infant of Prague Catholic Church
18 traces its roots to 1939 as a mission that was established
19 after the Cahaba Housing project was completed; at this time,
20 Reverend John A. Bratton offered mass in a vacant apartment
21 twice monthly with six people in attendance; the congregation
22 later moved its location for mass to the office waiting room
23 of Dr. C.E. Cernak; a parish census conducted in 1940 revealed
24 50 Catholics residing in the area; and

25 WHEREAS, in February 1941, Bishop Toolen appointed
26 Father Frank Giri to establish a parish in Trussville;
27 Archbishop Fulton Sheen presented a check for construction of

1 the building and chose the name Holy Infant of Prague for the
2 new parish; next, a site was purchased on Hewitt Street; the
3 ground for the church was broken on August 31, 1941, and
4 construction for a brick church designed to house 100 people
5 began in October; and

6 WHEREAS, Holy Infant of Prague Church held its first
7 mass on the First Sunday of Lent in 1942, and the church was
8 dedicated by Bishop Toolen on May 10, 1942; and

9 WHEREAS, on June 21, 1947, Reverend Joseph Adams
10 became the first resident pastor and the mission obtained the
11 rank of parish; a parish hall was constructed in 1953; in
12 1967, the church was enlarged and renovated to seat 175
13 congregation members and received a new organ; and

14 WHEREAS, as the Trussville area experienced a period
15 of rapid growth, the parish outgrew the original church
16 building; in 1991, the parish constructed a church to seat
17 250; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1997, the debt from earlier construction
19 was retired and planning for a new church and other needed
20 parish facilities commenced; Bishop David Foley presided over
21 a groundbreaking ceremony for the new building on February 27,
22 2005, and construction began on July 1 of that same year; the
23 new church seats 800 people and is equipped with a chapel, a
24 parish hall, 13 classroom/meeting rooms, and staff offices;
25 Holy Infant of Prague Catholic Church held its first Sunday
26 mass in the newest location on September 30, 2006; the current
27 parish roll is 839 registered families; and

1 WHEREAS, The Holy Infant of Prague Catholic Church
2 has steadfastly triumphed through the years by the grace and
3 love of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior, and will continue to
4 thrive and carry its tremendous legacy into the future,
5 serving as a beacon of light and a pillar of faith in the
6 community; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
8 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Holy Infant of Prague
9 Catholic Church is highly honored and commended, and this
10 resolution is offered to its pastor and congregation in
11 deepest admiration and appreciation, along with sincere best
12 wishes for continued blessings.