

1 HR351  
2 160391-2  
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Colston  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 18-MAR-14

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8 COMMENDING OFFICER BYRON THOMPSON OF THE HUNTSVILLE  
9 POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2014 ALABAMA  
10 LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.  
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12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we  
13 recognize Officer Byron Thompson of the Huntsville Police  
14 Department as a nominee for the 2014 Alabama Legislative Medal  
15 of Honor for Law Enforcement, Alabama's highest law  
16 enforcement award for extraordinary courage in the line of  
17 duty; and

18 WHEREAS, Officer Thompson has been with the  
19 Huntsville Police Department for nine years and serves as a  
20 Uniform Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, and is a  
21 member of the Mobile Field Force and Honor Guard Unit; and

22 WHEREAS, on July 10, 2013, Officer Thompson pulled  
23 up on an eight-vehicle traffic accident at Memorial Parkway  
24 and Airport Road and realized that one of the drivers was  
25 trapped in his vehicle; and

26 WHEREAS, while Officer Thompson and several citizens  
27 were trying to free the driver from the smoking vehicle, the

1 engine burst into flames, with the driver's legs still pinned  
2 under the steering wheel; although the other citizens left,  
3 Officer Thompson continued his efforts to get the driver out  
4 of the burning vehicle; another citizen then came to assist  
5 Officer Thompson as the passenger compartment began to fill  
6 with smoke, and flames were coming in through the front  
7 windshield; after several minutes, the two rescuers were able  
8 to remove the driver from the vehicle, but if not for the  
9 actions of Officer Thompson and the citizen who assisted him,  
10 the driver would most likely have died as a result of the  
11 fire; and

12 WHEREAS, Officer Thompson showed extreme bravery by  
13 staying in the burning vehicle until he was able to free the  
14 driver; and

15 WHEREAS, Officer Thompson was nominated for a Medal  
16 of Valor as a result of this incident, and on August 16, 2013,  
17 he was issued a Lifesaving Medal; in addition, Officer  
18 Thompson was awarded the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Sons  
19 of the American Revolution Heroism Medal; and

20 WHEREAS, Officer Thompson's dedicated service  
21 contributes greatly to the safety and quality of life of the  
22 citizens of Huntsville, and he is truly deserving of this  
23 distinguished nomination for the Legislative Medal of Honor  
24 for Law Enforcement; now therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
26 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and honor  
27 Officer Byron Thompson of the Huntsville Police Department as

1 a nominee for the 2014 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law  
2 Enforcement and direct that he receive a copy of this  
3 resolution as evidence of our admiration and esteem.