

1 HR377  
2 160575-1  
3 By Representative Nordgren  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 18-MAR-14

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF COLONEL OLA LEE MIZE.  
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10 WHEREAS, we note the death of Colonel Ola Lee Mize  
11 of Gadsden, Alabama, on March 12, 2014, with deep sadness and  
12 regret; his immeasurable life of 82 years is commended and  
13 celebrated with great thanksgiving; and

14 WHEREAS, the passing of Colonel Mize leaves a void  
15 in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the  
16 entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

17 WHEREAS, born in Marshall County in 1931, he entered  
18 the Army as a "buck private" in 1948 and worked his way  
19 through the ranks; he served with much honor and distinction  
20 during three tours of duty in Vietnam, and he retired as a  
21 Full Colonel with the Special Forces; during the last five  
22 years of his distinguished military career, he was in charge  
23 of the Special Forces School; and

24 WHEREAS, a hero and a tremendous leader, he earned  
25 the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, for  
26 his meritorious service during the Korean War; he was known as  
27 a "warrior's warrior" among his comrades; "he was a soldier's

1 leader," Etowah County's Veterans Affairs officer, Rick  
2 Vaughan described his friend; "if you had to pick a leader to  
3 go to war with, Lee Mize was the one you would want to pick;  
4 you would absolutely want to go with him because you knew he  
5 would take care of you, make sure you were prepared and had  
6 all the skill and knowledge you need to get there and get back  
7 safe;" and

8 WHEREAS, Colonel Mize desired for the men serving  
9 under him to be honored as well when he received the Medal of  
10 Honor; he attempted to turn down the prestigious award until  
11 his men were also recognized; in addition, Colonel Mize was  
12 nominated for a second Medal of Honor for his service in  
13 Vietnam; and

14 WHEREAS, Colonel Mize was the most dedicated soldier  
15 you could find, but most of all, he loved the Lord with his  
16 heart, mind, and soul; If he could relay a message to the  
17 world, it would be as follows: "Give your heart to the Lord  
18 and live for Him;" he was a faithful and devoted member of  
19 Southside Baptist Church; and

20 WHEREAS, through the years, Colonel Mize earned  
21 immense respect for his tireless dedication and exceptional  
22 abilities, and his unwavering commitment to the defense of  
23 freedom and democracy was a tremendous source of credit upon  
24 the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, survivors include his beloved and devoted  
26 wife, Betty Mize; daughter, Teresa Peterson (Rodney);  
27 grandchildren, Brandy Pearson, Jennifer Frachiseur, Katie

1 Smith (Chris) and Joshua Haney; great-grandchildren, Sarah  
2 Haney, Luke Pearson, Drew Pearson, Landon Smith, Cason Smith,  
3 and Hunter Haney; brothers, Gary Mize, Donald Mize, and Johnny  
4 Mize; sisters, Judy Hienrich, Brenda Garza, and Della George;  
5 brothers-in-law, Lee Jackson and Jack W. Coeey;  
6 sisters-in-law, Denise Jackson Coeey and Kathy Shields  
7 Jackson; numerous nieces and nephews; his chosen family, Joel  
8 and Tammy Haney, Rick and Linda Vaughan, and many special  
9 friends; and

10 WHEREAS, Colonel Mize was a valued member of the  
11 community; although his presence is greatly missed; his memory  
12 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were  
13 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
15 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of  
16 Colonel Ola Lee Mize, we are highly grateful for his abundant  
17 life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute to his  
18 inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to his  
19 family, friends, and colleagues.