

1 SJR69
2 140548-1
3 By Senators Sanford, Bedford, Whatley, Holtzclaw, McGill,
4 Glover, Scofield, Williams, Holley, Taylor, Dial, Allen,
5 Blackwell, Bussman, Waggoner, Brooks, and Beason
6 RFD:
7 First Read: 17-APR-12

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8 DESIGNATING A PORTION OF ALABAMA HIGHWAY 53 IN
9 LIMESTONE AND MADISON COUNTIES, AS THE PAUL LUTHER BOLDEN
10 MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.

11
12 WHEREAS, Paul Luther Bolden from Madison, Alabama,
13 June 15, 1922 - May 21, 1979, joined the United States Army in
14 October 1942, and by December 23, 1944, was serving as a Staff
15 Sergeant in Company I, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry
16 Division; he retired with the rank of Master Sergeant; and

17 WHEREAS, because of his heroism on December 23,
18 1944, Mr. Bolden earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, the
19 highest military medal awarded; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Bolden's official Medal of Honor
21 citation reads: "He voluntarily attacked a formidable enemy
22 strong point in Petit-Coo, Belgium, on December 23, 1944, when
23 his company was pinned down by extremely heavy automatic and
24 small-arms fire coming from a house 200 yards to the front.
25 Mortar and tank artillery shells pounded the unit, when S/Sgt.
26 Bolden and a comrade, on their own initiative, moved forward
27 into a hail of bullets to eliminate the ever-increasing fire

1 from the German position. Crawling ahead to close with what
2 they knew was a powerfully armed, vastly superior force, the
3 pair reached the house and took up assault positions, S/Sgt.
4 Bolden under a window, his comrade across the street where he
5 could deliver covering fire. In rapid succession, S/Sgt.
6 Bolden hurled a fragmentation grenade and a white phosphorus
7 grenade into the building; and then, fully realizing that he
8 faced tremendous odds, rushed to the door, threw it open and
9 fired into 35 SS troopers who were trying to reorganize
10 themselves after the havoc wrought by the grenades. Twenty
11 Germans died under fire of his submachine gun before he was
12 struck in the shoulder, chest, and stomach by part of a burst
13 which killed his comrade across the street. He withdrew from
14 the house, waiting for the surviving Germans to come out and
15 surrender. When none appeared in the doorway, he summoned his
16 ebbing strength, overcame the extreme pain he suffered and
17 boldly walked back into the house, firing as he went. He had
18 killed the remaining 15 enemy soldiers when his ammunition ran
19 out. S/Sgt. Bolden's heroic advance against great odds, his
20 fearless assault, and his magnificent display of courage in
21 reentering the building where he had been severely wounded
22 cleared the path for his company and insured the success of
23 its mission"; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
25 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the portion of Alabama Highway
26 53 in Limestone and Madison Counties known as the Ardmore

1 Highway is designated as "The Paul Luther Bolden Memorial
2 Highway" in honor of the memory of Paul L. Bolden.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, if possible, the
4 signage should be designed and laid out in emblems and words
5 as follows:

6 Image of the Congressional Medal of Honor
7 Paul Luther Bolden Memorial Highway.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such memorial
9 designation shall in no way alter or conflict with the common
10 designation Alabama Highway 53 in Limestone and Madison
11 Counties and shall not affect in any way postal or address
12 designations along that portion of Alabama Highway 53 in
13 Limestone and Madison Counties to be so memorialized.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
15 resolution be provided to the family of Paul L. Bolden so that
16 they may know of the esteem in which we hold their family
17 member and the service he made to his country.