

1 SJR69
2 140548-2
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

1 SJR69

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4 ENROLLED, SJR69,

5 DESIGNATING A PORTION OF ALABAMA HIGHWAY 53 IN
6 LIMESTONE AND MADISON COUNTIES, AS THE PAUL LUTHER BOLDEN
7 MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.

8
9 WHEREAS, Paul Luther Bolden from Madison, Alabama,
10 June 15, 1922 - May 21, 1979, joined the United States Army in
11 October 1942, and by December 23, 1944, was serving as a Staff
12 Sergeant in Company I, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry
13 Division; he retired with the rank of Master Sergeant; and

14 WHEREAS, because of his heroism on December 23,
15 1944, Mr. Bolden earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, the
16 highest military medal awarded; and

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

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

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the portion of Alabama Highway
25 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.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR69

Senate 17-APR-12

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 01-MAY-12

By: Senator Sanford