

1 SJR15

2 198184-1

3 By Senators Stutts, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley,
4 Burkette, Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn,
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Holley, Jones, Livingston,
6 Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed, Roberts,
7 Sanders-Fortier, Scofield, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton,
8 Smitherman, Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 21-MAR-19

1 198184-1:n:03/20/2019:lk/ma LSA2019-1011

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8 HONORING JOHNNY MICHAEL SPANN, THE FIRST AMERICAN
9 KILLED IN THE WAR ON TERROR, AND CONDEMNING THE EARLY RELEASE
10 OF JOHN WALKER LINDH, "THE AMERICAN TALIBAN," AND HIS ROLE IN
11 SPANN'S DEATH

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13 WHEREAS, Agent Johnny Michael Spann, a native of
14 Winfield, Alabama and graduate of Winfield City High and
15 Auburn University, dedicated his talents and life to criminal
16 justice, joining the Central Intelligence Agency in 1999; and

17 WHEREAS, Agent Spann served with the CIA overseas,
18 an assignment which brought him to Afghanistan during the War
19 on Terror; and

20 WHEREAS, John Walker Lindh, known as "the American
21 Taliban," is a resident of California who willingly joined the
22 Taliban and who studied anti-American propaganda in Yemen and
23 Pakistan, including one seminar with known global terrorist
24 Osama Bin Laden, until his capture; and

25 WHEREAS, John Lindh was confined in Qala-I-Jangi
26 prison in Afghanistan, where Agent Spann was assigned, at the
27 time of the infamous "Battle of Qala-I-Jangi" prison uprising

1 which resulted in the deaths of Agent Spann and many coalition
2 allies; and

3 WHEREAS, court testimony showed that John Lindh had
4 prior knowledge of the uprising which could have saved Agent
5 Spann's life and the lives of hundreds of prisoners if it had
6 been provided during Agent Spann's questioning of John Lindh
7 only moments prior to the uprising; and

8 WHEREAS, despite the overwhelming odds, Agent Spann
9 is reported to have killed seven Taliban militants prior to
10 being overcome by multiple attackers and brutally executed at
11 point blank range by cowards who feared a fair fight with one
12 of America's best; and

13 WHEREAS, in recognition of Agent Spann's sacrifice
14 for the security of his nation and the world as the first
15 American killed in the War on Terror, he was buried at
16 Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., and is
17 honored on the CIA's Memorial Wall as well as with a permanent
18 marker in Afghanistan at the place of his last stand; and

19 WHEREAS, the actions of John Lindh ripped a loving
20 father and husband from his three children and his wife, who
21 now carry Agent Spann's legacy; and

22 WHEREAS, John Lindh avoided execution for treason
23 against the United States in 2002, and was sentenced instead
24 to only 20 years in prison; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2017, the U.S. Counterterrorism Center
26 described John Lindh "as radical as ever" and still
27 unrepentantly committed to Jihad; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we honor the enduring legacy of bravery, loyalty, and service which the life of Johnny Michael Spann so consummately represents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the actions of John Lindh deprived Agent Spann of an opportunity to experience a long and meaningful life with his family, which he so greatly deserved, and that John Lindh should therefore not be freed simply due to a court order without first serving every single second of his sentence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body hereby strongly condemns the recent ruling to allow John Lindh, "the American Taliban," to leave prison prior to completing his full sentence, as this action is an insult to Agent Johnny Michael Spann's heroic legacy and his remaining family members, who have mourned his death daily for over 17 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an early release of John Lindh is entirely contrary to American values and is an insult to all who have sacrificed to defend this country and the flag it represents.