

1 HR236
2 117698-1
3 By Representatives McClurkin, Payne, Collier, Johnson,
4 DeMarco, Treadaway, Canfield, McCutcheon, McDaniel, Love,
5 Allen and Coleman
6 RFD:
7 First Read: 04-FEB-10

8 HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOE LEE
9 GRIFFIN HOPE LODGE OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.
10

11 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodges
12 provide a home away from home for cancer patients and their
13 caregivers by providing free overnight lodging during
14 treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, guests and their families at the American
16 Cancer Society's Hope Lodges are supported by positive and
17 comforting volunteers from the local community, who provide
18 transportation to treatment and social enrichment activities,
19 or facilitate cancer support programs offered by the American
20 Cancer Society; and

21 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society named the
22 Birmingham Hope Lodge in memory of longtime volunteer leader
23 and supporter, Joe Lee Griffin, who lost both his first and
24 second wives to cancer before losing his own battle with the
25 disease in 1998; and

1 WHEREAS, the Joe Lee Griffin Hope Lodge opened its
2 doors in January 2000 and is the only such facility in the
3 state, and is one of just 29 nationwide; and

4 WHEREAS, the volunteers and staff of the Joe Lee
5 Griffin Hope Lodge work tirelessly to provide a nurturing and
6 encouraging environment for Alabamians who are battling
7 cancer, easing the financial and emotional burdens of the
8 disease; and

9 WHEREAS, volunteers at the Joe Lee Griffin Hope
10 Lodge have provided an average of 40 hours of volunteer work
11 every week since January 2000; and

12 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2009, the Joe Lee Griffin
13 Hope Lodge provided 11,284 occupied room nights, saving guests
14 an estimated \$1.3 million in lodging expenses alone, while
15 serving a total of 494 families from 11 states with an average
16 length of stay of 12 days; in addition, cancer patients
17 staying at the facility were furnished a total of 6,700 round
18 trips to treatment in the Birmingham area; and

19 WHEREAS, the Joe Lee Griffin Hope Lodge has been
20 home away from home for approximately 3,000 cancer patients
21 since January 2000; and

22 WHEREAS, the volunteers and staff of the Joe Lee
23 Griffin Hope Lodge work to ensure that cancer patients do not
24 have to go without the most advanced treatment available based
25 solely on the fact that they cannot afford to travel outside
26 their own communities to receive care; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
2 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the volunteers and staff of
3 the Joe Lee Griffin Hope Lodge in Birmingham are honored and
4 commended for ten years of community service and their ongoing
5 efforts to create a warm and welcoming temporary home for
6 cancer patients, and this resolution is offered in highest
7 tribute and deepest gratitude for reducing cancer care
8 disparities and improving the quality of life for cancer
9 patients and their families.