

1 HJR283
2 127789-1
3 By Representatives Galliher, Hill and McCutcheon
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 05-APR-11

8 RECOGNIZING EASTER WEEK AS CHRISTIAN HERITAGE WEEK
9 IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA.
10

11 WHEREAS, acknowledging that America was settled by a
12 multitude of Christians who desired the creation of a
13 Christian commonwealth characterized by religious liberty and
14 freedom of conscience; and that Christianity has profoundly
15 influenced the United States of America from its earliest
16 beginnings forward, we are pleased to recognize Easter Week as
17 Christian Heritage Week in the State of Alabama; and

18 WHEREAS, the Mayflower Compact, the first political
19 document drafted in America, reveals a Christian aim and
20 purpose, as expressed through the words, "for the glory of God
21 and advancement of the Christian faith"; and

22 WHEREAS, the New England Confederation, which united
23 the four colonies of Massachusetts, Plymouth, New Haven, and
24 Connecticut, and the first such alliance in America,
25 forthrightly declared in Article I: "We all came to these
26 parts of America with one and the same end and aim, namely to

1 advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enjoy the
2 liberties of the Gospel in purity and peace"; and

3 WHEREAS, education in colonial America and
4 succeeding years was strongly influenced by the teachings and
5 principles of Christianity, as exemplified by Rule Two of the
6 Rules and Precepts of Harvard College: "Let every student be
7 plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well,
8 the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus
9 Christ which is eternal life, John 17:3 and therefore to lay
10 Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all knowledge
11 and learning"; and

12 WHEREAS, George Washington, the great and beloved
13 "father of our country" and first president of the United
14 States, emphasized the importance of Christianity in the life
15 of America in his Inaugural Address to both houses of Congress
16 on 30 April 1789, when he proclaimed, "We ought to be no less
17 persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be
18 expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of
19 order and right which Heaven itself has ordained"; and

20 WHEREAS, the Illinois State Supreme Court, in the
21 case of Richmond v. Moore, in 1883, boldly declared in its
22 judicial decision that, "Our laws and our institutions must
23 necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the
24 Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be
25 otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our
26 civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian";
27 and

1 WHEREAS, Congress has recognized the inestimable
2 value of Christianity to America, evidenced by a report
3 delivered by the House Judiciary Committee in 1853-1854,
4 wherein was stated, "In this age there can be no substitute
5 for Christianity; that, in its general principles, is the
6 great conservative element on which we must rely for the
7 purity and permanence of free institutions. That was the
8 religion of the founders of the republic, and they expected it
9 to remain the religion of their descendants"; and

10 WHEREAS, the aforementioned historical facts are but
11 a few of the many indisputable proofs that Christianity has
12 exerted a tremendous and wonderful influence upon the United
13 States of America; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we are proud to recognize
16 Easter Week as Christian Heritage Week in which the influence
17 of Christianity on American history is emphasized in the State
18 of Alabama.