

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.