

1       HR607  
2       131572-1  
3       By Representatives Sanderford, Ball, McCutcheon, Patterson,  
4       Williams (P) and Hall  
5       RFD:  
6       First Read: 24-MAY-11

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8 RECOGNIZING ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION CHURCH: 150  
9 YEARS, OLDEST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NORTH ALABAMA.

10  
11 WHEREAS, we take great pride in recognizing St. Mary  
12 of the Visitation Church as the oldest Catholic Church in  
13 North Alabama; it had its beginning on October 13, 1861, when  
14 the Bishop John Quinlan from Mobile laid the cornerstone; and

15 WHEREAS, many Catholics began to flock to the  
16 Huntsville area after Alabama was given statehood in 1819; in  
17 the early 1830s, Bishop Michael Portier commissioned two  
18 priests to visit North Alabama and when they did not find one  
19 Catholic Church, he sent for surveys to find the most suitable  
20 place for a new Church to be built, and an area near  
21 Huntsville with about 30 families was chosen; Bishop Quinlan  
22 funded the building project and construction began in July of  
23 1861; construction was slow and was delayed due to the Civil  
24 War; and

25 WHEREAS, St. Mary of the Visitation has remained in  
26 the same location for 150 years, remaining one of the oldest  
27 Catholic Churches in North Alabama and has served as a Mother

1 Church for the development of numerous churches in the region;  
2 many church members and clergy have served the people in the  
3 area and have provided religious and educational services for  
4 many years to keep the church viable; now therefore,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
6 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That, by copy of this resolution,  
7 we commend the devotion of the members of the St. Mary of the  
8 Visitation Church which has continued to be a tremendous asset  
9 to the Huntsville community for 150 years.