

1 HJR248
2 138556-1
3 By Representative Morrow
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 06-MAR-12

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8 HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE TORNADO VICTIMS IN OAK
9 GROVE, ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, on April 27, 2011, the EF5 tornado that
12 devastated Alabama reached its peak in the Oak Grove community
13 of Franklin County; and

14 WHEREAS, this storm was one of the most destructive
15 tornadoes in United States history and the worst natural
16 disaster ever to hit the State of Alabama; and

17 WHEREAS, the National Weather Service estimated the
18 tornado to have winds in excess of 210 miles per hour with a
19 path more than 1.25 miles wide when it reached Oak Grove; and

20 WHEREAS, on April 22, 2012, near the intersection of
21 Franklin County Crossroads 38 and 81, a monument is being
22 dedicated to honor the memory of the lives lost, as well as
23 pay tribute to the survivors and all those who helped comfort,
24 restore, and rebuild, including assistance from churches,
25 organizations, neighbors, and other individuals whose love and
26 kindness will never be forgotten; and

1 WHEREAS, the community of Oak Grove lost five
2 beloved and highly regarded residents in the prime of life,
3 the oldest at the age of 49 and the youngest only 24 years
4 old: Charlene D. Crochet, born April 7, 1970; Kelli Thorn
5 Morgan, born September 17, 1986; Michael A. Morgan, born
6 December 19, 1978; Donald Roy Heaps, born September 14, 1961;
7 and Jefrey D. Cothan, born August 31, 1975; and

8 WHEREAS, it is impossible to chronicle the
9 far-reaching community contributions of those who are now lost
10 to us except in memory, and we can only imagine the
11 possibilities inherent in these lives that were already marked
12 by accomplishment; we can only be appreciative of what they
13 meant to us, as individuals, day-by-day; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That on the occasion of dedication
16 ceremonies for the monument to the tornado victims in the Oak
17 Grove community of Franklin County, we memorialize the lives
18 so tragically lost and, by copy of this resolution to each
19 family, we convey our heartfelt condolences.