

1 HR342
2 140040-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Colston
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-APR-12

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8 COMMENDING BIRMINGHAM POLICE OFFICER WILLIE WILLIS
9 AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2012 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR
10 FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.
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12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
13 recognize Birmingham Police Officer Willie Willis as a nominee
14 for the 2012 Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor for Law
15 Enforcement, Alabama's highest law enforcement award for
16 extraordinary courage in the line of duty; and

17 WHEREAS, Officer Willis is an eight-year veteran of
18 the Department and is assigned to the West Precinct; and

19 WHEREAS, on October 6, 2011, Officer Willis was
20 flagged down by a citizen who told him that two females were
21 fighting in the street at Arkadelphia Road; when he responded
22 to the location, he noticed that they had made their way to
23 the bridge that overpasses Interstate 20/59; he quickly
24 realized that the encounter was not a fight but that one of
25 the females was threatening to jump off the bridge onto the
26 Interstate below; and

1 WHEREAS, Officer Willis approached the female,
2 attempting to calm her down and persuade her to come to him;
3 she refused all requests and stated that she was going to kill
4 herself, and he saw that she was intent on carrying out her
5 threat when she started to climb over the railing; Officer
6 Willis then acted quickly, rushing to her and deploying his
7 "Taser" in order to stop her movement before she could fully
8 position herself over the edge; he was thus able to gain
9 control of the situation, and paramedics were called to
10 transport her to the hospital for treatment; and

11 WHEREAS, at a location where others have taken their
12 own lives in the past, Officer Willis' quick and competent
13 actions saved the life of a person intent on doing harm to
14 herself; and

15 WHEREAS, Officer Willis is a worthy exemplar of
16 those caring and dedicated men and women who stand ever ready
17 to provide prompt and professional response in times of
18 crisis, and he is highly deserving of this distinguished
19 nomination for the Legislative Medal of Honor for Law
20 Enforcement; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and honor
23 Birmingham Police Officer Willie Willis as a nominee for the
24 2012 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement and direct
25 that he receive a copy of this resolution as evidence of our
26 admiration and esteem.