

1 HJR267
2 151712-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Colston
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 10-APR-13

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8 COMMENDING OFFICER STEPHEN HANNS OF THE BIRMINGHAM
9 POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2013 ALABAMA
10 LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.
11

12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
13 recognize Officer Stephen Hanns of the Birmingham Police
14 Department as a nominee for the 2013 Alabama Legislative Medal
15 of Honor for Law Enforcement, Alabama's highest law
16 enforcement award for extraordinary courage in the line of
17 duty; and

18 WHEREAS, Officer Hanns is a three-year veteran of
19 the Birmingham Police Department; and

20 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2012, in the early morning
21 hours, an armed suspect entered St. Vincent's Hospital, taking
22 an on-duty security guard hostage, and began to terrorize
23 hospital staff and patients as he made his way through the
24 hospital; and

25 WHEREAS, Officer Hanns was one of five officers
26 assigned to the South Precinct who arrived on the scene and
27 instantly realized that they were dealing with an active

1 shooter situation; without hesitation, he and the other
2 officers made their way to the 5th Floor, where they believed
3 the suspect to be; as they neared a bank of elevators, they
4 came face to face with him, and he immediately began firing on
5 them; and

6 WHEREAS, in the hail of gunfire that ensued, two
7 hospital employees and one of the officers were wounded by the
8 suspect; fortunately, the officers were able to stop the
9 actions of the suspect without any additional officers or
10 innocent persons being injured; and

11 WHEREAS, less than 24 hours previous to this event,
12 the nation had witnessed the very worst that man can do, with
13 the tragic results of an active shooter at the Shady Hook
14 Elementary School in Connecticut; however, in Birmingham,
15 Alabama, the nation bore witness to what everyday heroes are
16 capable of doing; and

17 WHEREAS, the five professional police officers in
18 Birmingham knew that there was an active shooter in the
19 hospital; they knew that with active shooters, there was a
20 high probability they could be injured; they also knew that if
21 they did not take immediate action, innocent people could be
22 killed; and

23 WHEREAS, these five brave police officers stood
24 between danger and the helpless, knowingly putting themselves
25 in the line of fire and averting a tragedy that could have
26 claimed many lives; each displayed determination and courage
27 in the face of an extremely dangerous situation and together

1 their quick actions and disregard for their personal safety
2 saved the lives of untold innocent people; and

3 WHEREAS, Officer Hanns is a worthy exemplar of those
4 caring and dedicated men and women who stand ever ready to
5 provide prompt and professional response in times of crisis,
6 and he is highly deserving of this distinguished nomination
7 for the Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement; now
8 therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and honor
11 Officer Stephen Hanns of the Birmingham Police Department as a
12 nominee for the 2013 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law
13 Enforcement and direct that he receive a copy of this
14 resolution as evidence of our admiration and esteem.