

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

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3           COMMENDING OFFICER STEPHEN HANNS OF THE BIRMINGHAM  
4 POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2013 ALABAMA  
5 LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.  
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7           WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we  
8 recognize Officer Stephen Hanns of the Birmingham Police  
9 Department as a nominee for the 2013 Alabama Legislative Medal  
10 of Honor for Law Enforcement, Alabama's highest law  
11 enforcement award for extraordinary courage in the line of  
12 duty; and

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

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

20           WHEREAS, Officer Hanns was one of five officers  
21 assigned to the South Precinct who arrived on the scene and  
22 instantly realized that they were dealing with an active  
23 shooter situation; without hesitation, he and the other  
24 officers made their way to the 5th Floor, where they believed  
25 the suspect to be; as they neared a bank of elevators, they

1       came face to face with him, and he immediately began firing on  
2       them; and

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

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

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

20              WHEREAS, these five brave police officers stood  
21      between danger and the helpless, knowingly putting themselves  
22      in the line of fire and averting a tragedy that could have  
23      claimed many lives; each displayed determination and courage  
24      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.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was adopted by the House 11-APR-13.

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

Senate

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18-APR-13

Adopted