

1 HR356
2 160421-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Colston
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 18-MAR-14

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8 COMMENDING OFFICER ZACHARY BLANTON OF THE DECATUR
9 CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2014 ALABAMA
10 LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.
11

12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
13 recognize Officer Zachary Blanton of the Decatur City Police
14 Department as a nominee for the 2014 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 Blanton was the primary responding
19 officer to Sandra Coleman's report that her ex-boyfriend was
20 trying to force his way into her residence on June 28, 2013;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, upon arrival, Officer Blanton observed
23 flames and heavy smoke coming from the residence; Mrs. Coleman
24 and one of her children were standing outside; Mrs. Coleman
25 attempted to run back into the residence for her other child,
26 but Officer Blanton prevented her from doing so; and

1 WHEREAS, even though no other responders had arrived
2 on the scene, Officer Blanton ran into the smoke filled
3 residence and guided Mrs. Coleman's eight-year-old son to
4 safety; without hesitation, Officer Blanton ventured back into
5 the apartment and rescued the child's puppy; and

6 WHEREAS, by this time, fire personnel had arrived
7 and put out the fire; due to Officer Blanton's meritorious
8 actions, Mrs. Coleman, her children, and their pet were
9 unharmed; Officer Blanton and other officers located the
10 ex-boyfriend and arrested him for domestic violence; and

11 WHEREAS, Officer Blanton's noble demonstration of
12 deft-thinking, bravery, and immense dedication to duty
13 preserved lives; his protective attitude and respect for all
14 forms of life motivated him to risk his own life to save a
15 small dog that belonged to a child he did not even know; and

16 WHEREAS, for his exemplary service, Officer Blanton
17 received the Medal of Merit, the Decatur City Police
18 Department's second highest honor; and

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

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
26 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and honor
27 Decatur Officer Zachary Blanton as a nominee for the 2014

1 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement and direct that
2 he receive a copy of this resolution as a token of our
3 admiration and esteem.