

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.