

1 HR261
2 176614-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Baker and Rowe
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 07-APR-16

8 COMMENDING OFFICER JAMES HARTON OF THE DECATUR
9 POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A NOMINEE FOR THE 2016 ALABAMA
10 LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.
11

12 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that we
13 recognize Officer James Harton of the City of Decatur Police
14 Department as a nominee for the 2016 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, on May 23, 2015, a small pickup truck left
19 the roadway of U. S. Highway 31 and plunged into Flint Creek;
20 the driver, Shane Edge, was still trapped inside as the
21 vehicle began to submerge into the dark waters; and

22 WHEREAS, three Decatur Police Department officers,
23 Sergeant John Sharp, Officer Larry Sharpley, and Officer James
24 Harton, responded to the emergency call and rushed to assist
25 Mr. Edge; ignoring their own safety, the officers entered the

1 water, broke the windshield, and pulled Mr. Edge to safety;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, without a moment's hesitation, Officer
4 James Harton placed himself in the path of danger to protect
5 Mr. Edge; his quick thinking and actions saved the life of Mr.
6 Edge; and

7 WHEREAS, Officer James Harton demonstrated immense
8 courage, diligence, and quick response in a highly dangerous
9 situation; his loyalty and unwavering commitment to protect
10 and serve the residents of Decatur were evidenced through his
11 willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to
12 preserve a life; and

13 WHEREAS, Officer James Harton epitomizes the
14 qualities of those who serve and protect, and he is truly
15 deserving of this distinguished nomination for the Legislative
16 Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
18 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and honor
19 Officer James Harton as a nominee for the 2016 Legislative
20 Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement and direct that he receive
21 a copy of this resolution as evidence of our admiration and
22 esteem.