

1 HJR39  
2 209965-1  
3 By Representatives McCutcheon, Ball, Hall, Daniels, Reynolds,  
4 Sanderford, Whitt and Whorton  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 09-FEB-21

8 COMMENDING THE AMERICAN LEGION AND WELCOMING  
9 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER, JAMES W. OXFORD, TO  
10 ALABAMA.

11  
12 WHEREAS, the American Legion is the Nation's largest  
13 Veterans Service Organization; and

14 WHEREAS, the American Legion was chartered by  
15 Congress in 1919 as a patriotic Veterans Organization focusing  
16 on service to Veterans, service members, and communities; and

17 WHEREAS, the American Legion evolved from Veterans  
18 of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit  
19 Veterans Service Organizations in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, the American Legion Department of Alabama  
21 had a pivotal role in establishing the Alabama Department of  
22 Veterans Affairs in 1945; and

23 WHEREAS, the American Legion was instrumental in the  
24 formation of the Veterans Administration and the G.I. Bill,  
25 both of which provide services to our country's defenders of  
26 freedom; and

1                   WHEREAS, today, membership stands at nearly two  
2 million Veterans in more than 13,000 posts worldwide organized  
3 into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with  
4 the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the  
5 Philippines; and

6                   WHEREAS, the American Legion has influenced  
7 considerable social change in America, advocated for benefits  
8 on behalf of America's Veterans, and produced many important  
9 programs for America's youth; and

10                  WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, the  
11 American Legion responded to Buddy Check activities to assist  
12 all Veterans; conducted blood drives and food delivery  
13 services; provided supplies to parents suddenly forced to  
14 homeschool their children; supplied protective masks to the  
15 public; provided disaster relief aid to citizens affected by  
16 Hurricane Laura in Louisiana and Hurricane Sally in southeast  
17 Alabama; and many other acts of community support; and

18                  WHEREAS, in 2021, the American Legion celebrates 102  
19 years of serving Veterans, service members, and their  
20 families; now therefore,

21                  BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we join Alabama's more than  
23 400,000 Veterans to hereby welcome the American Legion  
24 National Commander, James W. "Bill" Oxford, to the great State  
25 of Alabama.