

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

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

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

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

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

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

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