

1 HJR205
2 212729-3
3 By Representative Jones (M)
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 15-APR-21

8 RENAMING A PORTION OF STATE HIGHWAY 55 SOUTH IN
9 COVINGTON COUNTY IN HONOR OF SERGEANT RODNEY J. EVANS.
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11 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that the
12 Legislature of Alabama renames a portion of Alabama State
13 Highway 55 South from Andalusia to Florala, in honor of
14 Sergeant Rodney J. Evans; and

15 WHEREAS, the renaming of this portion of the highway
16 is in tribute to the heroism and ultimate sacrifice of
17 Sergeant Evans, who is the sole recipient of the Medal of
18 Honor from Covington County, Alabama, presented by former
19 President Richard M. Nixon on April 22, 1971; Sergeant Evans
20 died one day after his twenty-first birthday on July 18, 1969,
21 in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam; he was serving as a squad
22 leader in a reconnaissance sweep through heavy vegetation to
23 reconnoiter a strong enemy position; as the force approached a
24 well-defined trail, the platoon scout warned that the trail
25 was booby-trapped; Sergeant Evans led his troop on a trail
26 that was parallel to the trail; the force had begun to move
27 forward when a nearby squad was hit by the blast of a

1 concealed mine; looking to his right, Sergeant Evans saw a
2 second concealed enemy device; with complete disregard for his
3 safety, he shouted a warning to his men, dived to the ground,
4 and crawled toward the mine; just as he reached the mine, the
5 enemy detonated the explosive; Sergeant Evans absorbed the
6 full impact and his selfless action saved his comrades from
7 probable death or injury; he served as an inspiration to his
8 entire unit; and

9 WHEREAS, it is indeed appropriate to recognize the
10 exceptional sacrifice made by Sergeant Evans during the course
11 of his dedicated, capable, and selfless service to his unit
12 and to the United States of America; now therefore,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
14 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That a portion of Alabama State
15 Highway 55 South in Covington County be designated as Medal of
16 Honor Recipient Sergeant Rodney J. Evans Memorial Mile in
17 honor of Sergeant Rodney J. Evans, and the appropriate
18 authorities are directed to erect and maintain signs and
19 markers specifying this designation of honor as provided in
20 this resolution.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of
22 Transportation is requested to determine the cost of
23 fabricating and erecting the appropriate signs and markers,
24 consistent with applicable requirements and laws, and upon
25 receiving funds from non-state sources covering that cost, to
26 erect signs and markers as provided in this resolution in
27 recognition of this memorial designation.

