

1 HJR3
2 214414-1
3 By Representative Jones (M)
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 27-SEP-21

DESIGNATING A PORTION OF STATE HIGHWAY 55 SOUTH IN
COVINGTON COUNTY IN HONOR OF SERGEANT RODNEY J. EVANS.

WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that the
Legislature of Alabama renames a portion of Alabama State
Highway 55 South from Andalusia to Florala, in honor of
Sergeant Rodney J. Evans; and

WHEREAS, the designation of this portion of the
highway is in tribute to the heroism and ultimate sacrifice of
Sergeant Evans, who is the sole recipient of the Medal of
Honor from Covington County, Alabama, presented by former
President Richard M. Nixon on April 22, 1971; Sergeant Evans
died one day after his twenty-first birthday on July 18, 1969,
in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam; he was serving as a squad
leader in a reconnaissance sweep through heavy vegetation to
reconnoiter a strong enemy position; as the force approached a
well-defined trail, the platoon scout warned that the trail
was booby-trapped; Sergeant Evans led his troop on a trail
that was parallel to the trail; the force had begun to move
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 from the corporate limits
16 of Andalusia to the corporate limits of Florala be designated
17 as Medal of Honor Recipient Sergeant Rodney J. Evans Memorial
18 Highway in honor of Sergeant Rodney J. Evans, and the
19 appropriate authorities are directed to erect and maintain
20 signs and markers specifying this designation of honor as
21 provided in this resolution.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of
23 Transportation is requested to determine the cost of
24 fabricating and erecting the appropriate signs and markers,
25 consistent with applicable requirements and laws, and upon
26 receiving funds from non-state sources covering that cost, to

1 erect signs and markers as provided in this resolution in
2 recognition of this memorial designation.