HR165

5S4F336-1

By Representatives Faulkner, Carns, Garrett, Ensler

RFD:

First Read: 04-Apr-24

HR___ RECOGNIZING THE ALABAMA YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION ON MAY 2, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Alabama Holocaust Commission will host a 2024 State Yom HaShoah Commemoration on May 2, 2024, to observe the passage of Yom HaShoah; the Alabama Holocaust Commission is overjoyed to announce that this year's Yom HaShoah Commemoration will be held at the Alabama Department of Archives and History; and

WHEREAS, Yom HaShoah was instituted by Israel in 1951 as a day of commemoration for the 6,000,000 Jewish men, women, and children who perished in the Holocaust, the largest manifestation of hate and intolerance in modern history; and

WHEREAS, there is no institutionalized ritual for Yom HaShoah; commemorations may include synagogue services, communal vigils, and educational programs; the lighting of memorial candles and reciting of prayers for the departed are generally featured in the solemn ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Alabamians not only mourn the Jews lost in the Holocaust, but the Holocaust survivors who have died within the last year will be dearly missed after decades of sharing their stories and spreading awareness of the horrors they personally witnessed and their memories of those who suffered and died during the Holocaust; it was their stories

of the brutality of the concentration camps; the tattoos; the squalid conditions; the forced labor; the hideous medical experiments; the starvation; and the gas chambers that drove home the unspeakable horrors they endured; and

WHEREAS, American screenwriter and playwright Rod Serling spoke these words on why humanity must never forget the Holocaust and why the concentration camps must never be torn down, "All the Dachaus must remain standing. The Dachaus, the Belsens, the Buchenwalds, the Auschwitzes; all of them. They must remain standing because they are a monument to a moment in time when some men decided to turn the Earth into a graveyard. Into it they shoveled all of their reason, their logic, their knowledge, but worst of all, their conscience. And the moment we forget this, the moment we cease to be haunted by its remembrance, then we become the gravediggers. Something to remember, not just in The Twilight Zone, but wherever men walk God's Earth."; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That on this momentous occasion of the Yom HaShoah Commemoration sponsored by the Alabama Holocaust Commission on May 2, 2024, we recognize and honor the memory of the lives lost in the Holocaust, the survivors who have died over the last year, and we honor those survivors who remain among us.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That events such as this year's Yom HaShoah Commemoration are vital to ensuring that Alabamians and the people of the world never, ever forget

the significance and the horror that was the Holocaust.