

1 HJR7
2 115927-1
3 By Representatives Hubbard, Allen, Baker (A), Baker (L), Ball,
4 Bandy, Barton, Beasley, Beck, Beech, Bentley, Black, Boothe,
5 Boyd, Bridges, Buskey, Canfield, Clouse, Coleman, Collier,
6 Curtis, Davis, DeMarco, Drake, Dukes, England, Faust, Fields,
7 Fincher, Ford, Galliher, Gaston, Gipson, Gordon, Graham,
8 Grantland, Greeson, Grimes, Guin, Hall, Hammett, Hammon,
9 Harper, Hill, Hilliard, Hinshaw, Holmes, Howard, Hurst, Irons,
10 Ison, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy, Knight, Laird, Letson, Lewis,
11 Lindsey, Love, Martin, Mask, McAdory, McCampbell, McClammy,
12 McClendon, McClurkin, McCutcheon, McDaniel, McLaughlin,
13 McMillan, Millican, Mitchell, Moore (M), Moore (P), Morrow,
14 Newton (C), Newton (D), Oden, Page, Payne, Robinson (J),
15 Robinson (O), Rogers, Salaam, Sanderford, Scott, Sherer,
16 Shiver, Spicer, Taylor, Thigpen, Thomas (E), Thomas (J), Todd,
17 Treadaway, Vance, Ward, Warren, White, Williams (J), Williams
18 (P), Wood and Wren
19 RFD:
20 First Read: 12-JAN-10

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF COLONEL ROBERT LEWIS HOWARD.

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10 WHEREAS, it is with an inconsolable sense of loss
11 that news is received of the death of a native son who became
12 one of America's greatest heroes, United States Army Colonel
13 (Retired) Robert Lewis Howard, on December 23, 2009, at the
14 age of 70 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Colonel Howard was credited with being the
16 most decorated American soldier in history, having been
17 awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, two Distinguished
18 Service Crosses, the Silver Star, four Bronze Stars, eight
19 Purple Hearts, and scores of additional citations for valor
20 and merit during the course of his 36-year career; and

21 WHEREAS, born in Opelika on July 11, 1939, he
22 enlisted in the Army at the age of 17 and retired as a full
23 Colonel in 1992; during the Vietnam War, he served in the
24 Green Berets and spent most of his five tours of duty in the
25 covert Special Operations Group that carried out some of the
26 most daring and dangerous missions ever conducted by the
27 American military; he was wounded 14 times in 54 months; and

1 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor citation described his
2 action on a mission to rescue a missing American soldier in
3 enemy-controlled territory: although a grenade attack had left
4 him weaponless, wounded, and unable to walk, he managed to
5 crawl through a hail of fire to retrieve his critically
6 wounded platoon leader, then administered first aid and
7 rallied his platoon to repulse the enemy for more than three
8 hours, gaining sufficient control to permit the landing of
9 rescue helicopters; he was cited for conspicuous gallantry,
10 intrepidity, and complete devotion to the welfare of his men
11 at the risk of his life; and

12 WHEREAS, Colonel Howard was nominated for the Medal
13 of Honor two additional times for extraordinary heroism within
14 a 13-month period; he holds the distinction of being the only
15 soldier in history to be nominated for the nation's highest
16 honor three times for three separate actions, and although an
17 individual can receive only one Medal of Honor, the men who
18 served with Colonel Howard said he deserved all three; and

19 WHEREAS, he leaves to mourn his death his children
20 and grandchildren, as well as his siblings who reside in
21 Alabama: brother and sister, Steve Howard and Frances Jackson
22 of Prattville, and sisters, Judy Roberts and Alice Carter of
23 Opelika; and

24 WHEREAS, Colonel Howard's burial with full military
25 honors is scheduled on February 22, 2010, in Arlington
26 National Cemetery; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of United States
3 Army Colonel (Retired) Robert Lewis Howard is recorded with
4 deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in highest
5 tribute to his life, along with heartfelt sympathy to his
6 grieving family for the loss of an American hero of
7 unparalleled stature.