

1 HJR5
2 145238-1
3 By Representative Wood
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 05-FEB-13

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8 DESIGNATING A PORTION OF UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 431
9 IN CALHOUN COUNTY FROM MILE MARKER 238 TO MILE MARKER 243 AS
10 THE MAJOR JOHN PELHAM MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.

11
12 WHEREAS, with highest tribute and deepest
13 appreciation, the service of the late John Pelham who lost his
14 life in the Civil War is herein recognized and honored; and

15 WHEREAS, his assignments included: lieutenant, Wise
16 (Va.) Artillery (early 1861); captain, Stuart Horse Artillery
17 (March 23, 1862); major, Artillery (August 9, 1862);
18 lieutenant colonel, Artillery (April 4, 1863, to rank from
19 March 2); and commanding Horse Artillery Battalion, Cavalry
20 Division, Army of Northern Virginia (August 1862-March 17,
21 1863); and

22 WHEREAS, after fighting at the First Battle of Bull
23 Run, he became the captain of the first horse artillery
24 battery that served with General JEB Stuart, becoming close
25 friends with the general; and

26 WHEREAS, commanding his unit, he saw action at
27 Yorktown and during the Seven Days battle and after a

1 promotion he commanded all of Stuart's horse batteries at 2nd
2 Bull Run and Antietam; at Fredericksburg he held up the
3 advance of a Union division against the Confederate right with
4 only two guns; with only one gun left, he continued to shift
5 positions despite the fact that 24 enemy guns were now
6 concentrating their fire on him; disobeying repeated orders to
7 withdraw, he only did so upon running out of ammunition;
8 General Lee observed and said, "It is glorious to see such
9 courage in one so young!"; and

10 WHEREAS, known as the "Boy Major," he heard of an
11 impending action at Kelly's Ford on March 17, 1863; away from
12 his battalion at the time, he joined the fray with the
13 cavalry; he fell victim to a shell fragment while directing a
14 column; now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the portion of United States
17 Highway 431 in Calhoun County from mile marker 238 to mile
18 marker 243 is designated as the Major John Pelham Memorial
19 Highway.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, if possible, the
21 signage should be designed and laid out in emblems and words
22 as follows:

23 Great Seal of the State of Alabama

24 Major John Pelham Memorial Highway

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such memorial
26 designation shall in no way alter or conflict with the common
27 designation United States Highway 431 in Calhoun County from

1 mile marker 238 to mile marker 243 and shall not affect in any
2 way postal or address designations along that portion of the
3 highway to be so memorialized.