

1 HR257
2 127998-1
3 By Representatives Boothe and Clouse
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 31-MAR-11

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8 COMMENDING DR. NATALIE A. WHALEN UPON HER SELECTION
9 AS MS. WHEELCHAIR ALABAMA 2011.

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11 WHEREAS, it is with great pleasure that we recognize
12 Dr. Natalie A. Whalen of Ozark, Alabama, upon her selection as
13 Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2011; and

14 WHEREAS, she was selected as the state's most
15 accomplished and articulate spokesperson for those who utilize
16 wheelchairs for mobility, and she will represent the State of
17 Alabama during the Ms. Wheelchair USA competition in July 2011
18 in Green, Ohio; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Whalen is a highly esteemed educator
20 who retired in 2005 after a distinguished career; she
21 graduated from Florida State University in 1982 with a
22 Master's Degree in Special Education, minoring in History, and
23 earned her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Special Education
24 from The Union Institute and University of Cincinnati, Ohio,
25 in 1999; and

26 WHEREAS, at the age of five, she was left paralyzed
27 from the shoulders down when struck by a truck; she was not

1 expected to recover, a diagnosis that her devoted mother
2 adamantly refused to accept; gradually some of the paralysis
3 dissipated and for many years she astounded doctors by walking
4 with the aid of crutches and braces, which she managed to
5 continue until she was about 24 years old; she also succeeded
6 in proving wrong the medical opinion that she would not be
7 able to bear children; Dr. Whalen is the proud mother of two
8 as well as the doting grandmother of six and great-grandmother
9 of one; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Whalen's platform for Ms. Wheelchair
11 Alabama and Ms. Wheelchair USA is "It's All a Matter of
12 Attitude"; she loves to travel and has driven all over the
13 country, often taking along a grandchild; among her roles of
14 community leadership, she is an officer of the Wiregrass
15 Patriots, Secretary of the Claybank Master Gardeners, and
16 Queen Mother of the Bama Belles, Red Hat Society; and

17 WHEREAS, through the years and in all her endeavors,
18 Dr. Whalen has earned respect for her determination and
19 exceptional abilities, and she is truly deserving of this
20 significant honor; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby most heartily
23 commend and congratulate Dr. Natalie A. Whalen as Ms.
24 Wheelchair Alabama 2011 and do further direct that a copy of
25 this resolution be presented to her with warm best wishes for
26 every future success and happiness in life.