

1 SJR44  
2 127580-2  
3 By Senators Holley, Beason, Allen, Beasley, Bedford,  
4 Blackwell, Brewbaker, Brooks, Bussman, Coleman, Dial, Dunn,  
5 Fielding, Figures, Glover, Holtzclaw, Irons, Keahey, Marsh,  
6 McGill, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield,  
7 Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Taylor, Waggoner, Ward, Whatley  
8 and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 22-MAR-11

1 SJR44

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4 ENROLLED, SJR44,

5 COMMENDING DR. NATALIE A. WHALEN UPON HER SELECTION  
6 AS MS. WHEELCHAIR ALABAMA 2011.

7  
8 WHEREAS, it is with great pleasure that we recognize  
9 Dr. Natalie A. Whalen of Ozark, Alabama, upon her selection as  
10 Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2011; and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, at the age of five, she was left paralyzed  
24 from the shoulders down when struck by a truck; she was not  
25 expected to recover, a diagnosis that her devoted mother

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

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

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

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

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President and Presiding Officer of  
the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representa-  
tives

SJR44

Senate 22-MAR-11

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint  
Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 24-MAR-11

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By: Senator Holley