

1 SJR44  
2 127580-1  
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

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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 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, 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.