RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF MRS. SHERRILL PARRIS, SENIOR DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, UPON HER RETIREMENT APRIL 30, 2016

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherrill Parris has served the education community, schools, teachers, administrators, students, and parents of Alabama as Senior Deputy State Superintendent of Education and has dedicated her career to the care, nurturing, well-being, and education of young people; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parris’ concern for youth includes, but expands beyond, the classroom as evidenced early in her career path as a social worker for Foster Family Care and Adoption and as an elementary school teacher in both private and public school settings; and

WHEREAS, as a dynamic young educator, Mrs. Parris’ love for education and leadership qualities led her from first-grade teacher to principal of both Cedar Park Elementary and Byrd Elementary School in the Selma City School System; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parris’ passion for learning was recognized by the Alabama State Department of Education (SDE) and led to her appointment as an education specialist, and eventually, an education administrator with the award winning and nationally recognized acknowledged Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI); and

WHEREAS, with literacy being the cornerstone of Mrs. Parris’ educational objectives and ARI serving as the engine that drives Alabama’s goal of 100 percent literacy among public school students, Mrs. Parris became the Director of ARI and was instrumental in developing Alabama’s “Action Plan for Literacy – Birth through Grade 12,” a comprehensive framework for action that defines the expectations that support literacy development from birth through Grade 12; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 Mrs. Parris was appointed Assistant State Superintendent of Education and took the helm of the newly established Office of Student Learning – which includes ARI, the Alabama Math Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI), Assessment and Accountability, and Curriculum and Instruction; and

WHEREAS, her ever expanding roles within the (SDE) soon encompassed the Division of Teaching and Learning as she assumed the position of Deputy State Superintendent of Education; and
WHEREAS, in this capacity, Mrs. Parris' responsibilities included the Office of Student Learning, as well as the Office of Learning Support, the Office of Teaching and Leading, and the Educator Effectiveness Section; and

WHEREAS, her responsibilities within the SDE were only a portion of her total life work, as Mrs. Parris served in a leadership capacity in various education organizations including, but not limited to President of the Deputies Leadership Commission for the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), Advisory Board member for the Southeast Comprehensive Center, numerous task forces, committees, roundtables, and co-directing assignments round out a career steeped with initiatives to advance public education; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parris has been the recipient of the Professional Women's Excellence in Leadership Award (2007), the University of West Alabama Alumni Achievement Award (2012), and is recognized by colleagues as the consummate professional; and

WHEREAS, her success at home mirrors the success achieved professionally – Mrs. Parris has been married for 45 years to husband John Parris and is most proud of her two daughters, two sons, and seven grandchildren:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education hereby wish Mrs. Parris well during her much deserved retirement from the field of public education and expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Sherrill Parris for her steadfast resolve and tireless dedication to the field of education.

Done this 14th day of April 2016