HONORING ALABAMA EDUCATOR HEATHER HURT, RECIPIENT OF THE 2018 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

WHEREAS, Alabama officially joined the Milken Educator Awards program in 1998; and a total of 36 Alabama educators have earned this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Alabama’s 2018 Milken Educator Award recipient is Mrs. Heather Hurt, a Fifth Grade teacher at Vestavia Hills Elementary School Central, Vestavia Hills City School System, where she specializes in the areas of K-12 reading, history, and science; and

WHEREAS, Milken Educator Heather Hurt stresses daily to her students the importance of “going further” in their personal educational experience; and

WHEREAS, after her students recently read Balloons Over Broadway, a book about the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, Milken Educator Heather Hurt insisted that her students study the full history of the parade, including its traditions on building parade decorations; and

WHEREAS, each student in her classroom had to describe in detail their own parade float concepts in an essay, and they were required to design actual miniature float models, and lastly to create individual small-scale, three-dimensional models of New York City; and

WHEREAS, for this same classroom lesson, students also programmed LEGO MINDSTORMS robots to pull their miniature floats through their model city designs; and

WHEREAS, Milken Educator Heather Hurt is truly dedicated to making important history, geography, and science concepts come-alive in her classroom, and her exciting class lessons engage students, while boosting creativity; and

WHEREAS, her students use everything, from Google Presentations, to actual video-green screens to demonstrate their class work and research findings; and

WHEREAS, to learn about colonial history, her students recently role-played the events of the Boston Tea Party via Skype with actors from the renowned Boston Museum; and

WHEREAS, Milken Educator Heather Hurt wholeheartedly believes in the power of engaging students through resources, which truly inspire them to achieve at high levels; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama is proud of its 2018 Milken Educator Heather Hurt:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Mrs. Heather Hurt for her commitment to educational excellence and does hereby express its sincere congratulations.

Done this 10th day of January 2019