

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING GABE MARSH, GUNTERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, GUNTERSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS THE 2023 RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SPIRIT OF SPORTS AWARD**

**WHEREAS**, Gabe Marsh, a para-athlete swimmer from Guntersville High School, Guntersville City School System, has demonstrated exceptional determination, perseverance, and a strong spirit in the face of adversity; and

**WHEREAS**, Gabe Marsh was recognized at the opening ceremonies of the 104th National Federation of High School (NFHS) Summer Meeting as the 2023 recipient of the National High School Spirit of Sports Award, an honor bestowed upon individuals who exemplify the true essence of participation in high school sports, embodying the values of dedication, sportsmanship, and community engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, Gabe Marsh, born without legs and with only one arm, was adopted by Ed and Ann Marsh, who have both devoted their lives serving foster and adopted children, including those with special needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed and Ann Marsh, Gabe's adoptive parents, supported his love for swimming despite his physical limitations, leading to Gabe's discovery of his natural talent in the water; and

**WHEREAS**, Gabe Marsh's journey in competitive swimming began at the age of six, he achieved remarkable success in para-athletic swimming. Winning state titles at the Alabama High School Athletic Association State Championships and the Alabama Para-Olympics, he inspired countless individuals through his unwavering spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, Gabe Marsh's impact extends beyond the pool, as he has exhibited exceptional character, becoming Mr. Journalism at Guntersville High School for his contributions to the school's media and earning the title of Alabama High School Employee of the Year by McDonald's; and

**WHEREAS**, Gabe Marsh has shared his story and life experiences with youth groups in northeast Alabama, aiming to inspire and guide others through his example of overcoming challenges and adversity; and

**WHEREAS**, Gabe Marsh's ultimate aspiration is to become a minister, using his remarkable journey and the recognition received from the NFHS Spirit of Sports Award to inspire and positively influence individuals across the nation:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does honor and recognize Gabe Marsh for his exceptional achievements and his embodiment of the true spirit of sportsmanship and resilience. We applaud his dedication to his craft, his unwavering faith, and his commitment to inspire others to overcome obstacles and achieve greatness; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education congratulates Gabe Marsh on his remarkable journey, his positive impact on his community, and his well-deserved recognition as the 2023 recipient of the National High School Spirit of Sports Award.

Done this 10th day of August 2023