RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE THARPTOWN HIGH SCHOOL ROCKETRY TEAM FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR WINNING THE 2024 AMERICAN ROCKETRY CHALLENGE AND FOR PLACING SECOND IN THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL ROCKETRY CHALLENGE

WHEREAS, now in its 22nd year, the American Rocketry Challenge offers a fun and challenging way to expose students to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), not only learning about those important subjects but looking at them as a possible career; and

WHEREAS, the Tharptown Rocketry Team members include: Kylee Beard (Team Captain), Adrionna Ashley, Angie Chavez, Angel Franco, Frank Gutierrez, Isabella Hall, Shyla Martinez, Jessie Mitchell, along with coaches and sponsors Marsha Inmon, Arreanna Orozco, Darrel Baker, Julie Madden, and mentor Andrew Heath, competed against 922 teams from 42 states and won first place at the 2024 American Rocketry Challenge in May; and

WHEREAS, the Tharptown Rocketry Team traveled to the International Rocketry Challenge in London, England during the Farnborough International Airshow in July 2024 and placed second in the closest ever scoring spirited showdown for this international competition; and

WHEREAS, Tharptown High School has become a rocketry powerhouse, sending a team to the National Finals six times since the program started in 2018 and has now placed in the top ten four times:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the Tharptown High School Rocketry Team, Franklin County School System, for their months of preparation designing, building, and testing a rocket capable of meeting rigorous mission parameters and for their achievements exemplifying the spirit of innovation and collaboration.

Done this 12th day of September 2024