



# *Proclamation*

## *By the Governor of Alabama*

*WHEREAS, chess has been played for centuries by millions of people around the world and is the greatest of mind sports; and*

*WHEREAS, the game of chess was a favorite pastime of America's Founding Fathers such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington; and*

*WHEREAS, learning chess is a great intellectual joy and can lead to a lifetime of learning, challenge and adventure; and*

*WHEREAS, through chess, one can learn how to use important critical thinking skills to devise creative solutions and put plans into action; and*

*WHEREAS, chess for children is of great benefit as it is an exercise of infinite possibilities for their mind; chess increases strategic thinking, math, reading and goal setting; chess stimulates intellectual creativity and improves problem-solving ability while raising self-esteem in children; and*

*WHEREAS, Alabama's school chess coaches are to be commended for their tireless promotion and teaching of chess to children. And, we commend those educators who encourage schools in the United States to engage in chess programs to promote problem-solving and critical thinking; and*

*WHEREAS, research suggests that chess as part of a brain healthy lifestyle may be a way to strengthen cognitive performance in older adults and as an intervention to slow the onset of Alzheimer's; moreover, chess is a memorable and unique recreational therapy for individuals with traumatic brain injuries, the blind and the elderly; and*

*WHEREAS, chess is a universal mind sport that transcends all cultures;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 14, 2017, as*

# *Chess Day*

*in the State of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017.*

*Kay Ivey*

*Kay Ivey, Governor*