

**For Immediate Release:** May 28, 2014 **Contact: Leigh Perry-Herndon** Phone: 251-377-5438

## Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Received Presidential Award for Export Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker presented the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce with the President's "E" Star Award for Export Service at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. "E" Awards are the highest recognition any U.S. entity may receive for making a significant contribution to the expansion of U.S. exports.

Criteria for the award is based on four years of successive export growth and case studies demonstrating valuable support to exporters resulting in increased exports for a company's clients. The Mobile Area Chamber previously received the "E" Award in 2005.

Mobile Area Chamber Director of International Trade Christina Stimpson and Vice President of Economic Development Troy Wayman attended the award ceremony at the Department of Commerce.

"The President's "E" Award winners... (play) a crucial role in strengthening and growing our economy through increased U.S. exports," said Secretary Pritzker. "By selling Made-in-America goods and services internationally, U.S. business can grow faster, hire more employees, pay higher wages, and help spread American ideas, innovation and values."

"International trade is an incredible job creator for our region. The work this Chamber does in conjunction with the Department of Commerce is amazing, and receiving this recognition is validation of our successful trade efforts," said Wayman.

Stimpson added, "Receiving this award would not be possible without the Chamber's relationship with the Alabama Department of Commerce and our Export Alabama Alliance partnership. Knowing that our efforts are bettering our community is incredibly rewarding."

U.S. exports of goods and services hit an all-time record of \$2.3 trillion in 2013. In Alabama, the latest trade statistics show Alabama exports totaled \$19.3 billion, with products and services shipped to nearly 200 countries. In the last five years, Alabama exports have increased 57 percent.

U.S. companies are nominated for the "E" Award for Export Service through the Department of Commerce's U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service office network, located within the Department's International Trade Administration, which has offices in 108 U.S. cities and more than 70 countries to help U.S. exporters.

Sixty-six U.S. companies were presented with the President's "E" Award this year.

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