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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walmart customers embrace cashier who is deaf

MOBILE - If Mobile residents make a late-night or early-morning run to Walmart on Beltline Highway, chances are they will meet Lizabeth Grover, a cashier who is deaf.

On March 26, Grover will celebrate her one-year anniversary with the retail giant.

"My job is a blessing from God," said Grover, through an interpreter. "I always wanted to work at Walmart. I really love my job. It's my favorite store."

She works from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. and enjoys customers finding creative ways to communicate with her.

When shoppers approach her, she usually lets them know that she is deaf. They then find a way to get her to understand their questions. One man, for instance, pointed to his socks. Then she showed him where the socks were. Other customers have gone an extra step.

"Many of my customers have picked up sign-language," Grover said. "A lot of them sign 'thank you' to me. I have learned that people are willing to accept people with disabilities."

Grover's store manager, Kevin Lazarus, has even begun taking sign-language classes so he can communicate with Grover and five other store employees who are deaf.

"She (Grover) has challenged me, and the other associates. She pushed me to learn American Sign Language," Lazarus said. "She is an amazing person. She does not back away from challenges. She will do anything we ask of her. She went from stocking shelves in the back to being a cashier in the front. She is not afraid to do anything."

Grover was able to get the job with Walmart with assistance from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS).

Dru Sweatman, her ADRS rehabilitation counselor, who is also deaf, located the job, talked to the store managers, and helped Grover complete an application. After she got the position, Sweatman provided counseling and guidance, transportation assistance, interpreting services, eyeglasses, a special alarm clock, hearing aids and job coaching.

Grover said she is grateful for the services she received.

"Dru helped me out tremendously," she said. "She saw my potential for things I didn't realize I could do."

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.