

By: Turner, Hamilton

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 580
(As Adopted by House and Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO COMMEND ANDREW LARK, JR., UPON THE
2 OCCASION OF HIS RECEIPT OF A 2000 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
3 IN THE ARTS.

4 WHEREAS, at age 36, Andrew Lark, Jr., is already making
5 headlines for his innovative approach to teaching visual arts at
6 Starkville High School; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1999, his students received more gold medals than
8 any other school or school district has ever received in the
9 history of the Mississippi Regional Scholastic Art Competition;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, 22 of his students received gold medals, and two of
12 the five American Vision Awards for best of show went to
13 Starkville High students; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Lark has said that he instills in his students
15 the idea that their creation is not a project, but a work of art,
16 and that, in his classroom, students are treated as artists; and

17 WHEREAS, his expectations of his students are high, and they
18 respond to his high expectations with growth as artists; and

19 WHEREAS, it is Mr. Lark's philosophy that art is a powerful
20 tool, and that, while creativity cannot be taught, a teacher can
21 unlock his students' creativity; and

22 WHEREAS, reaching beyond the regular classroom, Mr. Lark has
23 taught art to children as coordinator for the "Artist Is In"
24 program in Itta Bena, where he taught photography to the local
25 youth in a summer session; and

26 WHEREAS, he also served as a counselor at the Leflore County

27 Juvenile Report Center in Greenwood, where he started a project
28 providing delinquent boys with art-related job skills, the program
29 proving so powerful that some of the participants were inspired to
30 attend college and pursue a career in art; and

31 WHEREAS, Mr. Lark continues his work with his students during
32 summer vacation, voluntarily providing the guidance and
33 encouragement they need to develop their artistic talents and
34 skills; and

35 WHEREAS, he also involves donors from across the country who
36 recognize his resourcefulness as a visual arts educator and who
37 support his work in the classroom with a constant flow of generous
38 donations of art materials and equipment; and

39 WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Legislature to recognize
40 and commend the dedication of such an outstanding educator, who
41 has devoted uncounted hours and unceasing energy for the
42 betterment of his students:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
45 we do hereby commend Mr. Andrew Lark, Jr., upon his receipt of the
46 Arts Education Award of the 2000 Governor's Awards for Excellence
47 in the Arts.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
49 presented to Mr. Lark and to Starkville High School.