

By: Senator(s) Harvey, Smith

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 539

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 COVINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR DEBBIE
3 LOWERY.

4 WHEREAS, the Covington County School District has announced
5 that Debbie Lowery is the 2002-2003 District Teacher of the Year;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Debbie is an instructor of Special Populations at
8 the county's Vo-Tech complex, providing academic assistance to
9 students in math. In addition, she tutors after-school hours,
10 working with a First Families grant to help students hone math
11 skills; and

12 WHEREAS, a 31-year teaching veteran, this math instructor
13 actually had a difficult time deciding which discipline was meant
14 for her. After all, she loved to read and fully expected to
15 gravitate toward English and Literature. She even surprised
16 herself when she went the mathematics route; and

17 WHEREAS, during Debbie's first year of teaching in 1972, it
18 didn't take her long to realize the best way to avoid discipline
19 problems was to have a good lesson; part of the good lesson was
20 the result of the students completing their homework; and

21 WHEREAS, modeling her love of math by her enthusiastic
22 teaching, this energetic educator continues to make demands on her
23 students in such a way to generate sparks of discovery. Her
24 classroom is an active learning environment where students learn
25 by doing and experiencing math. The students are, of course,
26 learning concepts, not to mention such fundamental life skills as



27 teamwork, responsibility, on-the-job behavior and, most important
28 of all, self-esteem; and

29 WHEREAS, Debbie Lowery received her Bachelor of Science
30 degree in mathematics from William Carey College in 1972 and her
31 Masters of Education in mathematics/education in 1977 from William
32 Carey. Since then, accolades have followed her consistently,
33 having been named Star Teacher three times during her 16-year
34 tenure at Collins High School, as well as being named Collins High
35 School Teacher of the Year twice and Covington County Teacher of
36 the Year, the first time in 1989; and

37 WHEREAS, she has made significant contributions to the
38 professional development of education, including conducting a
39 workshop on "Use of the Computer in the Mathematics Classroom" for
40 teachers in both Covington and Smith Counties, presenting to
41 student teachers at University of Southern Mississippi, serving on
42 a panel of women teachers promoting secondary education to Jones
43 Junior College students and chairing the Curriculum Committees for
44 Covington County, thereby establishing the district curriculum for
45 all secondary math teachers. More recently, Debbie joined two USM
46 professors in presenting a regional workshop on the Mississippi
47 Gulf Coast for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics;
48 and

49 WHEREAS, above the numerous awards she has received, she
50 feels as if she would be remiss not to specify that her most
51 prized accomplishment is to have the respect and appreciation of
52 her present and former students; and

53 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
54 dedicated educator who has brought honor to her school, her
55 community and to the State of Mississippi:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby commend and congratulate Covington County School



59 District Teacher of the Year, Debbie Lowery, and wish her success
60 in her future professional endeavors.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
62 presented to Debbie Lowery and the Covington County Superintendent
63 of Education and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

