

By: Representatives Moore, Pierce, Baker
(74th), Brown, Calhoun, Clarke, Denny,
Ellington, Evans, Fleming, Gunn, Holloway,
Jennings, Middleton, Reeves, Robinson (63rd),
Rogers (61st), Rotenberry, Smith (59th),
Weathersby

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JOHN D. BAKELAAR
2 UPON BEING SELECTED AS A RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR
3 EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING.

4 WHEREAS, John D. Bakelaar, an instructor of mathematics at
5 Peeples Middle School, was recently named one of 95 individuals in
6 the nation, and one of two individuals in Mississippi, to receive
7 a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science
8 Teaching, the highest commendation in their profession; and

9 WHEREAS, described as possessing a real faith in his work and
10 devoted to the development of the people, Mr. Bakelaar was
11 recommended by Peeples' Assistant Principal Karen Maily; and

12 WHEREAS, educated in the New Jersey school system, Mr.
13 Bakelaar, upon graduation, enrolled at William Paterson University
14 in Wayne, New Jersey, where he earned a bachelor of science degree
15 in elementary education; and

16 WHEREAS, in the furtherance of his quest for knowledge in the
17 area of mathematics, Mr. Bakelaar furthered his education by
18 attending Jackson State University, acquiring graduate credits,
19 and by attending Mississippi College where he is studying to
20 obtain his master of education degree; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Bakelaar began his teaching career in 1972 at
22 Ridgewood Public Schools in Ridgewood, New Jersey, before working
23 in sales and marketing management with international corporations;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, missing his first love and true professional
26 calling, Mr. Bakelaar returned to teaching in 1992 at Jackson
27 Preparatory School as a teacher of math, English and political

28 science, in addition to functioning as coach for the varsity
29 soccer and baseball teams and the junior high basketball team; and

30 WHEREAS, currently employed with Peeples Middle School, where
31 he has worked since 1999, Mr. Bakelaar has provided professional
32 services, including workshops for parents and students, Delta
33 Rural Systemic Initiative Conferences and Mathematics Department
34 Chair; and

35 WHEREAS, having undergone several programs of professional
36 development, Mr. Bakelaar has acquired the requisite skill and
37 knowledge befitting this national honor and has been recognized as
38 a 2003 Mississippi State Finalist for the Presidential Award for
39 Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the 2002 Teacher
40 of the Year Award by the Council of Teachers of Mathematics and
41 publication of an article in the *New York Times Magazine* entitled
42 "Algebra Project"; and

43 WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career as an educator and
44 businessman, Mr. Bakelaar has enjoyed the love and support of his
45 family, including: wife, Pat Bakelaar; and children, Dr. Timothy
46 Paul Bakelaar, Ellen Elizabeth Garrett and Joe Sidney Garrett,
47 Jr.; and

48 WHEREAS, chosen by a panel of renowned mathematicians,
49 scientists and educators in coordination with the White House
50 staff, recipients of the Presidential Award will also receive a
51 \$10,000.00 cash award; and

52 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
53 recognize and commend excellence in such outstanding educators as
54 Mr. Bakelaar, whose commitment to educating the future doctors,
55 lawyers, business men and women, teachers and political leaders,
56 has brought great honor, pride and national recognition to
57 himself, Peeples Middle School and the State of Mississippi:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
60 commend and congratulate Mr. John D. Bakelaar upon his selection

61 as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in
62 Mathematics and Science Teaching and extend our heartiest wishes
63 for success in all his future endeavors.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
65 furnished to Mr. Bakelaar, Peeples Middle School and to the
66 members of the Capitol Press Corps.