

By: Representatives Ellis, Burnett, Calhoun, Chism, Dickson, Espy, Harrison, Robinson (63rd), Watson To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 92

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MR. ANDREW LARK
2 UPON HIS SELECTION AS 2003-2004 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR THE STATE
3 OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Andrew Lark, an alumnus of Mississippi Valley
5 State University with a bachelor of arts degree in fine arts, and
6 current teacher in the Starkville School District, was recently
7 named Mississippi's Teacher of the Year for 2003-2004; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Lark is an instructor of fine arts at Starkville
9 High School, where he provides informative insight, instruction
10 and academic support to students in their efforts of understanding
11 and appreciating art in both its most pure and most complex forms;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, an 11-year teaching veteran, Mr. Lark began his
14 career in Itta Bena, Mississippi, as Art Coordinator and Assistant
15 Director of the Artist in Program course, geared toward at-risk
16 children in grades 4-12; and

17 WHEREAS, after a two-year period, Mr. Lark transferred to the
18 Leflore County Juvenile Report Center located in Greenwood,
19 Mississippi, where he again remained two years, directing his
20 focus and sharing his passion for art with juveniles and at-risk
21 children in grades 5-12; and

22 WHEREAS, at the close of his services in Greenwood, Mr. Lark
23 embarked upon his journey into an actual school classroom setting
24 in 1997 at Starkville High School; and

25 WHEREAS, since his arrival at Starkville High School he has
26 honed his skill, intuitiveness and creativity, and has gained the

27 respect of his colleagues and students alike as an instructor and
28 chairman of the school's art department; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Lark has expanded the art curriculum, adding a
30 wide range of art related courses, including: Art I, Art II, Art
31 III, Photo I, Photo II, sculpture, product and industrial design,
32 portfolio, fashion design, jewelry design, metal smithing and
33 after school studio art classes; and

34 WHEREAS, modeling his love of art by his enthusiastic
35 teaching, this energetic educator continues to thrive artistically
36 and professionally, while generating an elevated level of
37 interests of his students, making his classroom an active learning
38 environment, where students learn through a diversified hands-on
39 approach; and

40 WHEREAS, in addition to learning art concepts, Mr. Lark's
41 students learn such fundamental life skills as teamwork,
42 responsibility, on-the-job behavior and, most importantly,
43 self-esteem; and

44 WHEREAS, Mr. Lark has made significant contributions to the
45 professional development of education, including having served on
46 the Teacher of the Year Advisory Committee, the State of
47 Mississippi Superintendent Advisory Committee and the School
48 Improvement Steering Committee, in addition to serving as a Mentor
49 of Practicum teachers from Mississippi University for Women and
50 Mississippi State University; and

51 WHEREAS, with numerous professional affiliations such as the
52 Starkville Area Council, the Mississippi Art Alliance, the
53 National and the Mississippi Art Education Association and both
54 the National and the Mississippi Education Associations, Mr. Lark
55 has garnered much support, and has prided Starkville High School
56 and the State of Mississippi throughout his career by winning more
57 than 250 State Scholastic Awards, 16 National Scholastic Art
58 Winners, 5 National Scholastic Gold Teaching Certificates, 3 Third

59 Congressional District Art Awards and a Kennedy Center Creative
60 Ticket Award; and

61 WHEREAS, the 1999-2000 recipient of the Governor Award in Art
62 Education, this two-time Starkville High School Teacher of the
63 Year, in addition to being named Mississippi Teacher of the Year
64 for 2003-2004, was also tapped as the 2003-2004 Third
65 Congressional District Teacher of the Year; and

66 WHEREAS, listed among Who's Who Among American Teachers, Mr.
67 Lark, over and beyond the numerous accolades he has received,
68 specifies his most prized possession and accomplishment is to have
69 the respect and appreciation of his present and former students;
70 and

71 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
72 dedicated educator who has brought honor to his school, his
73 community and to the State of Mississippi:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
75 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
76 commend and congratulate Andrew Lark for being named the 2003-2004
77 Mississippi Teacher of the Year and extend to him our heartiest
78 wishes for success in all his future professional and artistic
79 endeavors.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
81 furnished to Mr. Andrew Lark, the Superintendent of Starkville
82 School District and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.