

By: Representatives Foster, Criswell,
Eubanks, Hale, Henley, Hopkins, Kinkade

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 39

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING MRS. ELIZABETH RICHARDSON ON HER
2 OUTSTANDING DEDICATION TO HER STUDENTS AND FOR BEING NAMED DESOTO
3 COUNTY SCHOOLS TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson, a second-grade teacher at
5 Hope Sullivan Elementary School in Southaven, Mississippi, who has
6 a passion for teaching and a love for children, was named DeSoto
7 County Schools Teacher of the Year in recognition of her hard work
8 and unwavering dedication to providing an excellent education to
9 her students; and

10 WHEREAS, before coming to Hope Sullivan Elementary School in
11 2015, Mrs. Richardson and her family spent a year in the mission
12 field, serving the people of the small West African country of
13 Togo, which is located on a small strip of land located east of
14 Ghana and the Ivory Coast; and

15 WHEREAS, during their stay in Togo, Mrs. Richardson and her
16 family worked to encourage and develop children's ministry
17 programs in rural churches in which they were involved and they



18 also learned to make important connections across cultural and
19 language divides; and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Richardson noted that Togo is one of the
21 poorest countries in the world, but the people there are amazing
22 and they work unbelievably hard, and it was a completely humbling
23 experience, and she and her family worked with its citizens to
24 help develop a children's ministry because in West Africa the
25 majority of the churches are comprised of only women and children;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, with a background in teaching homeschool, preschool
28 and elementary school in various places, Mrs. Richardson said that
29 her time in Togo gave her a new perspective on life and she began
30 realizing the economic similarities between the citizens of Togo
31 and her students; and

32 WHEREAS, Mrs. Richardson stated that Hope Sullivan
33 Elementary School is a Title One School, and while she cannot
34 compare the economic situations of her students and that in Togo,
35 sometimes there are similar mindsets among people who are
36 struggling with poverty, and if one wants to build bridges to
37 those differences, it is important to remain humble and find ways
38 to connect to people and build relationships; and

39 WHEREAS, Mrs. Richardson has a tremendous passion for helping
40 her students grow and become productive citizens, and she remains
41 dedicated to her daily mission of teaching her second-grade class
42 by helping them comprehend the world around them with riveting



43 lessons and engaging discussions, and she continuously radiates
44 excellence, invigorates with her wisdom and inspires all of her
45 students to be the best they can be; and

46 WHEREAS, because Mrs. Richardson strives daily to provide a
47 quality education and an inclusive environment where her students
48 can grow and nurture their individual talents and creative
49 abilities, and because of her innovative means to accomplish her
50 mission, she has been honored this year as the DeSoto County
51 Schools Teacher of the Year; and

52 WHEREAS, seeking to inspire her students to grow as a person,
53 Mrs. Richardson uses the letters of the word "GROW" on a daily
54 basis to remind her students to always make the right choices, and
55 with the first letters of "Give," "Respect," "Only" and "Work"
56 spelling the word "GROW," the students recite the motto, "I choose
57 to give my attention, respect and kindness, only do my best and
58 work without disrupting others. My life is like a journey, and
59 the smartest way to go is forward, not backward, bigger, not
60 smaller. I will choose to grow."; and

61 WHEREAS, other methods that Mrs. Richardson uses to connect
62 with students includes a regular visit every 10 days from a
63 character she calls the Queen of Ten and another character dressed
64 like a Rubik's Cube; and

65 WHEREAS, Mrs. Richardson further noted that Hope Sullivan
66 Elementary School provides an excellent education for its students
67 and it does everything it can to meet the students' needs and help



68 the students with the challenges they face, and the school
69 provides many programs and training opportunities that are
70 specific to the needs of that particular community; and

71 WHEREAS, outside of the classroom, Mrs. Richardson is devoted
72 to her husband, Ryan, who is also in education as a geometry
73 teacher at Southaven High School, and their three children, Marie,
74 Jonah and Aaron; and

75 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
76 recognize outstanding teachers such as Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson,
77 who selflessly strive to improve the well-being of children in
78 Mississippi and provide them with the skills necessary for them to
79 fulfill their greatest potential:

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
81 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
82 commend and congratulate Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson on her
83 outstanding dedication to her students and for being named DeSoto
84 County Schools Teacher of the Year, and express best wishes for
85 her continued success in all of her future endeavors.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
87 furnished to Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson and to the members of the
88 Capitol Press Corps.

