

By: Representatives Haney, Bennett

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MRS.
2 MILLICENT "MANDY" GUNTER OF BAYOU VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN
3 GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, FOR RECEIVING MISSISSIPPI'S 2020
4 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
5 TEACHING.

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Millicent "Mandy" Gunter is one of two
7 Mississippi teachers who earned national recognition as recipients
8 of the 2020 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and
9 Science Teaching (PAEMST); and

10 WHEREAS, established in 1983, PAEMST is the highest award
11 kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics and science (including
12 computer science) teachers can receive from the United States
13 government, and each year, the award criteria alternates years
14 between kindergarten through sixth grade and seventh through 12th
15 grade teachers, and this year, kindergarten through sixth grade
16 teachers received the awards; and

17 WHEREAS, over the years, PAEMST award recipients represent
18 schools and organizations from all 50 states, Washington D.C.,



19 Puerto Rico, Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA)
20 schools, and the U.S. territories; and

21 WHEREAS, PAEMST nominees complete a rigorous application
22 process that allows them to demonstrate deep content knowledge and
23 their ability to adapt to a broad range of learners and teaching
24 environments, and a panel of distinguished mathematicians,
25 scientists and educators at the state and national levels assess
26 the applications before recommending nominees to the White House
27 Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), then teachers are
28 selected based on their distinction in the classroom and
29 dedication to improving STEM education; and

30 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gunter has been an educator for more than 30
31 years, and has spent the last 18 years teaching in the Gulfport
32 School District, and she is currently teaching all subjects in
33 third grade at Bayou View Elementary School, and prior to joining
34 Bayou View, taught at Westminster Academy for ten years and
35 Diamondhead Academy for the first two years of her teaching
36 career; and

37 WHEREAS, in her classroom, Mrs. Gunter challenges students to
38 explore problem-based mathematics, motivates students to become
39 problem solvers, incorporates real-world scenarios and implements
40 mathematical discourse to promote deeper student thinking, and her
41 classroom is an active learning environment where technology is
42 incorporated into her daily lessons; and



43 WHEREAS, in addition to teaching third grade, Mrs. Gunter
44 also serves as the K-5 mathematics coach, and as a lead teacher,
45 she facilitates professional development for teachers, continues
46 to build a site level collaborative mathematics team, mentors
47 student teachers, monitors site level mathematics programs, plans
48 activities to celebrate student success and orchestrates family
49 math night; and

50 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gunter has served on several district and state
51 committees, and she has been able to implement programs and
52 enhance curriculum from the knowledge gained from the numerous
53 national conferences she has attended, including: NCTM, Model
54 Schools, the Ron Clark Academy and Staff Development for
55 Educators; and

56 WHEREAS, dedicated to academic excellence, Mrs. Gunter is a
57 1984 graduate of Saint John High School in Gulfport, and she
58 earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the
59 University of Southern Mississippi in 1990, and a master's degree
60 in curriculum and instruction from Mississippi College in 2020,
61 and she also has a highly qualified status in mathematics from
62 Mississippi State University; and

63 WHEREAS, for excellence in education, Mrs. Gunter received
64 the Hannah Hatfield award for 2006, and she received Teacher of
65 the Year in 2000, 2004, 2011, and 2016; and

66 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gunter is married to her loving husband of 30
67 years, Mr. Edward Gunter, and they have a daughter, Haley Gunter,



68 who is also a teacher in the Gulfport School District, and in her
69 spare time she enjoys walking and gardening and is a member of
70 First Presbyterian Church in Gulfport; and

71 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gunter stated, "Being named a finalist for the
72 Presidential Award has been a truly humbling experience. I am
73 extremely grateful for teachers and colleagues who have mentored
74 and encouraged me throughout my journey of teaching. This award
75 recognizes my commitment to providing the best mathematics
76 instruction I can for my students, and it is rewarding to know
77 that I have had an impact on their success. This award inspires me
78 to continue to search for best practices in education and
79 implement them with intention."; and

80 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
81 and commend outstanding Mississippi teachers, especially those
82 such as Mrs. Gunter, whose dedication to her students brings great
83 honor to Bayou View Elementary School, the Gulfport School
84 District and the State of Mississippi:

85 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
86 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
87 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Millicent
88 "Mandy" Gunter of Bayou View Elementary School in Gulfport,
89 Mississippi, for receiving Mississippi's 2020 Presidential Award
90 for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, and extend to
91 her our best wishes for continued excellence in education.



92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
93 furnished to Mrs. Millicent "Mandy" Gunter, and to the members of
94 the Capitol Press Corps.

