

By: Senator(s) Carter, Simmons (13th),  
Barnett, Butler (38th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 554

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING  
2 MILLICENT GUNTER OF BAYOU VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN GULFPORT FOR  
3 RECEIVING MISSISSIPPI'S 2020 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
4 MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST SUCH AWARD  
5 FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

6 WHEREAS, Millicent Gunter is one of two Mississippi teachers  
7 who earned national recognition as recipients of the 2020  
8 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science  
9 Teaching (PAEMST). Millicent is a Math Teacher at Bayou View  
10 Elementary in the Gulfport School District; and

11 WHEREAS, established in 1983, PAEMST is the highest award  
12 kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics and science, including  
13 computer science, teachers can receive from the U.S. government.  
14 Each year, the award criteria alternates years between  
15 kindergarten through sixth-grade and seventh through 12th-grade  
16 teachers. This year, kindergarten through sixth-grade teachers  
17 received the awards. Award recipients over the years represent  
18 schools and organizations from all 50 states, Washington, D.C.,



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

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

30 WHEREAS, Millicent Gunter has been an educator for more than  
31 30 years and has spent the last 18 years teaching in the Gulfport  
32 School District. She is currently teaching all subjects in third  
33 grade at Bayou View Elementary School. She previously taught at  
34 Westminster Academy for 10 years and Diamondhead Academy for the  
35 first two years of her teaching career; and

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

42 WHEREAS, in addition to teaching third grade, Millicent also  
43 serves as the K-5 Mathematics Coach. As a lead teacher, she



44 facilitates professional development for teachers, continues to  
45 build a site-level collaborative mathematics team, mentors student  
46 teachers, monitors site-level mathematics programs, plans  
47 activities to celebrate student success, and orchestrates family  
48 Math Night. Millicent has served on several district and state  
49 committees. She has attended numerous national conferences,  
50 including NCTM, Model Schools, the Ron Clark Academy, and Staff  
51 Development for Educators. She has been able to implement  
52 programs and enhance curriculum from the knowledge gained from the  
53 conferences; and

54 WHEREAS, Millicent stated, "Being named a finalist for the  
55 Presidential Award has been a truly humbling experience. I am  
56 extremely grateful for teachers and colleagues who have mentored  
57 and encouraged me throughout my journey of teaching. This award  
58 recognizes my commitment to providing the best mathematics  
59 instruction I can for my students, and it is rewarding to know  
60 that I have had an impact on their success. This award inspires  
61 me to continue to search for best practices in education and  
62 implement them with intention":

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
64 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
65 we do hereby commend and congratulate Millicent Gunter of Bayou  
66 View Elementary School in Gulfport, Mississippi, for receiving  
67 Mississippi's 2020 Presidential Award for Excellence in  
68 Mathematics and Science Teaching, which is the highest such award



69 from the United States government, and extend to Millicent and the  
70 Gulfport School District our best wishes for continued excellence  
71 in education.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
73 Millicent Gunter, forwarded to the Gulfport School Board, and made  
74 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

