

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.

