

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 311

By Dunn

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Dr. Judith Neff, on her receipt of the Award of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Judith Neff, a fourth and fifth grade teacher at St. Joseph School of Knoxville, is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Neff has recently been presented with the Award of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching by the Tennessee Humanities Council, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, This gifted educator is one of only eight Tennessee teachers from among elementary and secondary school teachers across the state to receive this prestigious award chosen for their excellence in teaching the humanities; and

WHEREAS, Each recipient will receive a fellowship of \$1,500 to use for professional development, and another \$1,500 for humanities materials or programs at his or her school; Dr.

Neff will use her fellowship to attend the Ohio State University Children's Literature Conference, and the school's award will be used to purchase sets of children's literature and support a student book discussion project; and

WHEREAS, With bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, Judith Neff is a nationally respected leader in the field of reading and children's literature; she is an active member of the National Council of Teachers of English, International Reading Association, and The Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature, which she helped design and found to "promote literature and encourage its use in the lives of all children and young adults in East Tennessee through outreach to their current and future teachers, librarians, parents, and other care givers" and which she currently serves as a member of its Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Blessed with a wealth of wisdom from her twenty-four years of teaching experience, Dr. Neff shares her expertise with her peers through numerous workshop presentations, and she is helping to train the next generation of our state's educators as a teacher of Reading Methods at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Judith Neff is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Neff truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel is highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, She epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Judith Neff on her receipt of the Award of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching by the Tennessee Humanities Council,

commend her exceptional service to the young people of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.