

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 366

By McKee

A RESOLUTION To congratulate Anna Marie Ruckgaber upon her receipt of the Third Place Award in the Humanities Tennessee Letters About Literature Contest.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should commend those outstanding students who, because of their dedication and devotion, warrant recognition for their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Anna Marie Ruckgaber is one such student deserving of acknowledgment for her recent success in the Humanities Tennessee Letters About Literature Contest; and

WHEREAS, A seventh-grade student at Mountain View Elementary School in Etowah, Anna Ruckgaber received the Third Place Award for her letter to author Katherine Paterson; and

WHEREAS, The Letters About Literature Contest, co-sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, invited students to read a book and write a letter to the author discussing how the book impacted their lives; and

WHEREAS, Anna discussed the importance of the novel *Bridge to Terabithia* in her letter to the book's author, exploring the myriad themes and tones of the novel and discussing

how she empathized and identified with the characters; in her closing, Miss Ruckgaber pledged "to read many more of [Ms. Paterson's] works, in hopes of continuing to become both intellectually richer and a spiritually deeper human being"; and

WHEREAS, As Serenity Gerbman, Director of the Literature, Language and Literacy Program at Humanities Tennessee, said, "Letters About Literature is a wonderful contest for students. It encourages young readers to find books that are meaningful to them and to explore how those books affect their lives"; and

WHEREAS, More than 20,000 students from across the United States entered the competition this year; the first-place winners from each state will advance to a national competition; and

WHEREAS, Anna's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for her parents, her school, and her community; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ruckgaber's accomplishment is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; 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 commend and honor Anna Marie Ruckgaber on her significant achievement of winning Third Place in the Humanities Tennessee Letters About Literature Contest, and extend to her our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

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