

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 520

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Mr. James Ratledge on his selection as Tennessee's 2001 National Distinguished Principal.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. James Ratledge is one such estimable educator and administrator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ratledge has recently been selected Tennessee's 2001 National Distinguished Principal by the Tennessee Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals from a list of nominees from across the state; this honor recognizes the positive influence he has had on so many young lives, and is a most fitting award in appreciation of his 28-year career with the Blount County Schools, ten of which have been spent as the Montvale Elementary School Principal; and

WHEREAS, Speaking in support of Mr. Ratledge's selection as Tennessee's National Distinguished Principal, Ms. Debra Bently of the Tennessee Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, praised his outstanding contributions in curriculum, staff morale,

community support, student interest, and the learning environment, noting that all aspects of the school received exemplary ratings under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, An extremely talented and compassionate educator and, now as Principal, James Ratledge enjoys giving his students individual attention, and he stresses the importance of knowing the students on a personal basis, no matter how large the school is; he works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Humble in his acceptance of the award, Principal Ratledge stated, "I feel like this a reflection on our staff and our community and the kids we work with. It's more a reward for all of them than anything I've done"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ratledge truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel is highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, In honor of his most recent award, jointly sponsored by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the U.S. Department of Education, a special recognition program is to be held this fall in Washington, D.C. where the United States Secretary of Education will present Mr. Ratledge with a special certificate and an engraved school bell; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James Ratledge truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated educator who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he 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 Mr. James Ratledge, Principal of Montvale Elementary School, on being chosen as Tennessee's 2001 National Distinguished Principal, commend his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his 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.