

Filed for intro on 05/01/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 930  
By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Diane Bates Bennett  
on her selection as Lebanon/Wilson County  
Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year.

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, one such estimable educator is Diane Bates Bennett, who has distinguished herself as a professional educator of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, she has recently been selected as the Lebanon/ Wilson County Chamber of Commerce's Teacher of the Year, an honor most befitting her exemplary tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bennett has served with distinction as a Vocational and Business Education Teacher at Mt. Juliet High School for twenty-five years, conscientiously teaching classes in Information Management Systems, Desktop Publishing, and Web Page Design; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Bennett 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, born and raised in Wilson County in the Mt. Juliet community, Diane Bates Bennett is the beloved daughter of Irene Bates and the late Calvin Bates; growing up, she enjoyed the friendship of her two sisters, Bonnie and Patricia; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished scholar, she is a highly regarded graduate of Mt. Juliet Elementary School and Mt. Juliet High School; she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University in May of 1974, and a Master of Business Education from Middle Tennessee State University in August of 1980; and

WHEREAS, seizing every opportunity to expand her education and teaching skills, Mrs. Bennett attended classes on Novell Network programs at the Athena Computer Learning Center during the Summer of 1997, classes on Quark Express programs at the Nashville State Technical Institute during Spring of 1994, and classes in Database Training at Volunteer State from 1998 to 1990; and

WHEREAS, Diane Bates Bennett astutely served as an Administrative Secretary for Automatic Data Processing, one of Nashville's earliest computer companies, from 1974 to 1977, and was employed with Hospital Affiliates, serving as the Secretary for former Nashville Mayor, Phil Bredsen, before beginning her remarkable teaching career; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a Vocational and Business Education Teacher at Mt. Juliet High School, she also astutely serves as a Technology Assistant for MJHS, coordinates summer computer camps for children in the Mt. Juliet area, tutors adults in her community, teaches community education classes for Volunteer State Community College, creates and maintains the MJHS Webpage, and conducts staff development workshops in technology for the faculty of MJHS; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bennett is a valued member of many professional organizations, including the National Education Association, Wilson County Education Association, and Alpha Delta Kappa and is a past member of the Delta Pi Epsilon, Pi Omega Pi, National Business Education Association, and Tennessee Business Education Association; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of her profession, Diane Bates Bennett has written articles for *NEA Today*, *TEA News*, and the *Appalachian Technology in Education Consortium*; and

WHEREAS, being recognized as Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year is not her first honor; she was previously recognized by the Wilson County Board of Education for writing and receiving a TLCF Technology Grant and has been honored with the 2001-2002 Mt. Juliet High School Teacher of the Year Award, 1989 Outstanding Achievement in Youth Club Sponsorship, 1986 Community Celebration Award, 1986 MJHS Teacher of the Year for the Building Level Award, and 1986 Wilson County Teacher of the Year for the System Level Award; she has also been nominated for the Middle Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame and Tennessee Vocational Teacher of the Year in Business & Office Education Award; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bennett exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Diane Bates Bennett is a devoted wife to her husband of twenty-six years, Philip Bennett, and is a loving mother to her son, Zack; and

WHEREAS, she is a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet; and

WHEREAS, consistently working to encourage her students to do their best and give their best, Diane Bates Bennett's evident joy in working with young people has produced enthusiasm for learning among the students in her classroom; and

WHEREAS, she 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, Mrs. Bennett exemplifies 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 Diane Bates Bennett on being named Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the young people of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success and happiness 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.