

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 185

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Retta Sells on her selection as Teacher of the Year at Burks Middle School.

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

WHEREAS, Retta Sells was recently selected Teacher of the Year at Burks Middle School, 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, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, she has served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher with Putnam County Schools since 1970; prior to beginning her employment with Burks Middle in 2001, Ms. Sells taught at Uffelman Elementary School for an astounding thirty-one years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sells also taught adult education for five years; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated and passionate educator, Retta Sells gives of herself outside the classroom in numerous capacities; she is a supporter of the Parent Teacher Organization, serving throughout the years as president, as treasurer, and on the executive board; and

WHEREAS, she has hosted the Primetime Reading Night for fourth graders, served as a bookkeeper for the girls' basketball team, chaperoned and worked many school fundraisers, co-organized a talent show and benefit for a student with cancer, and directed the Huntsville Space Camp program for sixth graders; and

WHEREAS, she lends her time and talents to a number of professional organizations, as well, including, the Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) Educational Sorority from 1979 to 1999, and the

Alpha Mu Chapter/Putnam County Scholarship Committee which she served in a number of capacities, including that of president; she has also served the ADK State, organization, in which she held the office of sergeant-at-arms and served on the executive board's nominating committee and as chairman of the state ADK convention; and

WHEREAS, she contributes her professional expertise to such notable education associations as the PCEA, in which she held the leadership positions of treasurer and executive board member, the TEA, and the NEA, all from 1970 to 2004; she has served the PET since 2004; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Retta Sells is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for her many outstanding accomplishments in education including, Uffelman Teacher of the Year in 1980, and in 1990; Young Teacher of the Year, the 2001-2002 Burks Middle School Teacher of the Year; Burks' Rotary Teacher of the Year in 2006, and the Putnam County Teacher of the Year in 1990, and in 2002; and

WHEREAS, since 1972, she has been an active and devout member of Monterey First Free Will Baptist Church, where she teaches Sunday School, Wednesday Night Teens, and Bible School; she is president and treasurer of the Ladies Outreach, and she serves as director of the Choir, the Christmas programs, and Bible School; and

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

WHEREAS, Retta Sells truly 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 FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Retta Sells on being chosen Teacher of the Year at Burks Middle School for 2006-2007, commend her exceptional service to the

children 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.