

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1418

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to recognize Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross on the occasion of her retirement.

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, Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Barrasso-Cross will be taking a much deserved retirement at the conclusion of the 2007-2008 school year after fifty glorious years of teaching in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Siena College before she obtained her master's degree in administration and supervision; she also completed post-graduate work in English, French, and education administration and supervision; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Barrasso-Cross's illustrious career included esteemed tenures at St. Michael Catholic School, where she taught for a year; Immaculate Conception High School for Girls (ICHS), where she taught for fifteen years and had Priscilla Presley as one of her students; and Fayette Ware Comprehensive High School (FWHS), where she has taught for the past thirty-four years; and

WHEREAS, during her stint at ICHS, Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross rendered impeccable service as the Chairperson of the English Department and the sponsor of the senior class; and

WHEREAS, an innovative teacher, she organized the first Model United Nations assembly at the high school level and created the first literary publication for student writers titled, *The Word*; and

WHEREAS, Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross continued her pioneering teaching methods during her time at FWHS; she organized the school's first Student Government Association and chapter of the National Honor Society, of which she was also a member of the faculty council, as well as serving with acumen and alacrity as the Chairperson of the English Department; and

WHEREAS, possessing a flair for the dramatic from an early age when her father owned the famous Palace Theater in Memphis, Mrs. Barrasso-Cross created the Kaleidoscope Players, the acting troupe at FWHS, and produced many hit shows including, *Grease*, *Steel Magnolias*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and a female version of *The Odd Couple*; and

WHEREAS, she also wrote an original play, *A Time for Talking*, which was produced at Rhodes University, and wrote an original musical score, in addition to appearing at the Front Street Theater, the Center Players at Rhodes, Theater Memphis, and several TV series at WKNO; and

WHEREAS, Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross 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; she 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

WHEREAS, Mrs. Barrasso-Cross has received many honors and awards that befit her outstanding tenure as a teacher; the positive influence she has had on so many young lives has been recognized with her achievement of Career Ladder III status in the State of Tennessee, designation as Teacher of the Year on the Delta and State levels and as an Outstanding Educator in the State of Tennessee, nomination for Theater Teacher of the Year, receipt of the Leadership Award and the Crystal Apple Award for Teachers from WMCT-TV, and listed in *Who's Who Among Professional Women* and *Who's Who Among Educators*, as well as numerous plaques and certificates; and

WHEREAS, Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross is an active participant in her profession and contributes her time and talents to the teacher's honorary sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa, the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Italian-American Charitable Organization (UNICO); and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Barrasso-Cross 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, her many awards and accomplishments aside, Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross is most appreciative of the loving support and companionship of her husband, Bob; and

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

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues; 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 extend to Rose Marie Barrasso-Cross our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her every continued success 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.