

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 202

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ila Gilstrap's retirement from the Greenville
2 Independent School District at the end of the 2003-2004 school year
3 will bring to a close an exceptional career in education spanning
4 five decades; and

5 WHEREAS, One of 18 graduates of her class at Massey Lake High
6 School in Tennessee Colony, Texas, she went on to earn a bachelor's
7 degree in elementary education from Texas College in 1954 and
8 started teaching that fall; while teaching, she also took courses
9 in early childhood education and received a master's degree in 1958
10 from New York University; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gilstrap's first students were first-graders
12 in Conroe, and she later moved to Fred Douglas Elementary School in
13 Greenville; during the first year of integration, she joined the
14 staff of Bowie Elementary School, where she was the only African
15 American teacher, and she will finish her career at the same school;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Practical life lessons are part of the education
18 package in Mrs. Gilstrap's classes; recently, her fourth-graders
19 presented campaign speeches to their classmates and visitors,
20 conducted an election, and installed class officers; recognized for
21 her deep commitment to her students and to the field of education,
22 she was named Teacher of the Month for September 2003 by the Noon
23 Rotary Club in Greenville; and

24 WHEREAS, In all her endeavors, she enjoys the love and

1 support of her devoted husband, Melvin Gilstrap, a Texas College
2 classmate, their children, Stacy, Shelby, and Melvin Gilstrap, Jr.,
3 and four grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Ila Gilstrap has adhered to
5 the highest standards of the teaching profession, and she serves as
6 an inspirational role model for her students and colleagues alike;
7 now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
9 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Ila Gilstrap for a
10 half century dedicated to the education of Texas children and
11 extend to her heartfelt wishes for a happy and rewarding
12 retirement; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Mrs. Gilstrap as an expression of high regard by the
15 Texas House of Representatives.