R E S O L U T I O N

1   WHEREAS, In February 2003, the Texas Education Agency awarded
2   a rare perfect score to the bilingual education program taught in
3   the Mercedes school district, and this achievement provides a
4   fitting opportunity to highlight this noteworthy district and its
5   outstanding program of dual language instruction; and

6   WHEREAS, Unlike most bilingual education programs in the
7   United States, which focus on teaching English as a second
8   language, the Mercedes school district program emphasizes the
9   development of language skills in both English and Spanish for all
10 students, thereby helping students to pursue higher-level work in
11 either language and, ultimately, to become fluent readers and
12 writers of both English and Spanish; led by director Lisa Serna, the
13 Mercedes program has attracted strong community support, and its
14 success is evident in the fact that 16 of its 18 kindergarten
15 classes are taught using the dual-language method; and

16 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State has been blessed with a richly
17 diverse population, and its continued ability to compete in an
18 increasingly global economy will only be strengthened through
19 exemplary educational programs such as that taught in the Mercedes
20 school district; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
22 Legislature hereby congratulate the students, teachers, and
23 administrators of the Mercedes school district for earning a
24 perfect score in the area of bilingual education from the Texas

1 Education Agency; and, be it further

2   RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

3 prepared for prominent display in the Mercedes school district as

4 an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Wise

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 795 was adopted by the House on May 10, 2003, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House