

By: Hardcastle

H.R. No. 904

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Educators from the Callisburg Independent School
2 District and schools in Kesennuma, Japan, are taking part in the
3 Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Master Teacher Program, and their
4 inspiring exchange of ideas is enhancing the quality of education
5 for students in both countries; and

6 WHEREAS, The Master Teacher Program is a remarkable
7 collaboration between Japanese and American educators that
8 furthers cross-cultural learning and the development of
9 international curricula and allows students of different
10 nationalities to work together in researching important issues; and

11 WHEREAS, In the course of the program, the teachers visit
12 their partner country to learn more about the community and school
13 they are collaborating with; through these visits and online
14 activities, they develop joint science projects that will be
15 carried out by their students later in the year; also taking part in
16 the project are authorities from universities and businesses in the
17 United States and Japan, who provide vital expertise to the
18 students and assist them in performing research; and

19 WHEREAS, The Japanese participants in the
20 Callisburg-Kesennuma joint venture include Yukihiro Oikawa of the
21 Kesennuma City Board of Education, Noriko Memezawa of the Miyagi
22 University of Education Environmental Education Center, Yuichi
23 Hatakeyama of Kesennuma Omose Elementary School, Seiichi Yokoyama
24 and Hiroko Miyazaki of Kesennuma Shishiori Elementary School,

1 Katsushi Komatsu and Satoru Miura of Kesennuma Omose Junior High
2 School, and Takanobu Kato and Satoka Sawauchi of Miyagi Prefectural
3 Kesennuma High School; and

4 WHEREAS, Their counterparts from Texas include Donald
5 Metzler, the assistant superintendent for curriculum and
6 instruction for Callisburg ISD, Danita Ortowski and Deana Melancon
7 of Callisburg Elementary School, Tom Demetrion and Carla Taylor of
8 Callisburg Middle School, Tim Jones of Callisburg High School, Dr.
9 Eddie Hadlock, the president of North Central Texas College, Lisa
10 Bellows, department chair, and Sara Flusche of the science
11 department at North Central Texas College, Dr. Carol Fletcher of
12 the Texas Regional Collaborative for Excellence in Science
13 Teaching, and Dr. Molly Weinburgh, the director of Instructional
14 Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education at Texas Christian
15 University; and

16 WHEREAS, Both the Callisburg and Kesennuma educators have
17 taken part in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund joint ventures in
18 each of the past three years; the Texas school district has become
19 an especially prominent player among the American contingent in the
20 Master Teacher Program, providing three of the 10 U.S. schools
21 selected for 2007; and

22 WHEREAS, The students in the Callisburg-Kesennuma
23 collaboration are studying water quality in rivers near their
24 communities and will share their findings through monthly video
25 conferences; these activities will allow them to learn important
26 scientific and environmental information as well as foster greater
27 understanding between the two nations, and it is a pleasure to

1 recognize all of the participants in this rewarding program; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
4 Legislature hereby honor the Japanese and Texas educators taking
5 part in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Master Teacher Program
6 and extend to them best wishes for success in their educational
7 project; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for participants of the program as an expression of high
10 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.