

By: Castro

H.R. No. 1929

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Principal James Buchanan of Communications Arts
2 High School in San Antonio has been honored with the Friend of the
3 Profession Award by the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching
4 at the group's 2007 annual conference; and

5 WHEREAS, A graduate of Angelo State University with a
6 bachelor's degree in speech and theater, Mr. Buchanan also holds a
7 master's degree in educational administration from Texas A&M
8 University-Kingsville; and

9 WHEREAS, Over the course of his accomplished 35-year career,
10 Mr. Buchanan has worked as a director and actor in film, television,
11 radio, and the theater, and 14 of his plays have been produced in
12 the United States and Europe; a veteran educator, he has taught
13 theater and speech for 25 years in Sonora, Midland, and San Antonio,
14 and he was the theater director at Taft High School in San Antonio
15 for 10 years; and

16 WHEREAS, His devotion to teaching has been honored with
17 numerous awards; he has been named Texas Speech Teacher of the Year,
18 Midland Teacher of the Year, and Northside ISD Teacher of the Year;
19 in 1996 he was recognized as a Distinguished Educator by Trinity
20 University, and in 1998 he received a Texas Excellence in Teaching
21 Award from The University of Texas at Austin; named Administrator
22 of the Year by the Texas Educators of Foreign Languages Association
23 in 2003, he also won the San Antonio Mayor's Distinguished Leader
24 Award in 2006; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Buchanan is today the principal of
2 Communications Arts High School in San Antonio, a magnet school of
3 500 students, where under his leadership the teaching and use of
4 Spanish have become a top priority; named as one of the 100 best
5 high schools in the nation by *Newsweek* magazine, CAHS requires all
6 students to take at least three credits of Spanish instruction; the
7 school's students, 98 percent of whom enter college immediately
8 after graduation, learn to speak, write, and use electronic media
9 in Spanish as well as to advance their skills in English, and the
10 school publishes *La Comunidad*, the only school newspaper printed
11 entirely in Spanish; and

12 WHEREAS, A regional organization of foreign language
13 teachers, the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching represents
14 teachers from the southwest region for the purpose of enhancing the
15 teaching of foreign languages and recognizing excellence in
16 language study and teaching; the Friend of the Profession Award
17 recognizes an individual or organization not directly involved in
18 language teaching who has contributed significantly to the
19 profession; only five individuals have received the award since
20 1999; and

21 WHEREAS, Lauded by his colleagues and students for his
22 wholehearted support of the teaching of Spanish, Mr. Buchanan has
23 also been praised for encouraging teamwork and personal involvement
24 in decision making; he was instrumental in organizing field trips
25 to the San Antonio Museum of the Arts and for developing a
26 relationship with KVDA-Telemundo so that students could learn to
27 edit and air news stories in a Spanish-speaking environment;

1 bilingual himself, he has given speeches in Spanish and regularly
2 converses in Spanish with classes; and

3 WHEREAS, James Buchanan has shown himself to be a creative
4 and committed teacher and administrator, and his commitment to the
5 teaching of Spanish has greatly enriched the education and lives of
6 his students; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
8 Legislature hereby congratulate James Buchanan on winning the
9 Friend of the Profession Award from the Southwest Conference on
10 Language Teaching and extend to him sincere best wishes for
11 continued success; and, be it further

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