

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ruthie Meeks Walker has been named the 2009
2 Elementary Teacher of the Year for the Region VII Education Service
3 Center by the Texas Education Agency; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Harrison County, Ruthie Walker graduated
5 from Hallsville High School, and in 2002, she earned a bachelor's
6 degree in education from East Texas Baptist University, where her
7 mother, Mary Meeks, and her husband, Will Walker, also completed
8 their studies; four years later, she attained her master's degree
9 in curriculum and instruction from The University of Texas at
10 Arlington and became certified as a reading specialist and a
11 teacher of English as a second language; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Walker began her teaching career at the same
13 school that her father, Phillip Meeks, had attended as a child,
14 South Marshall Elementary; she later taught elementary school in
15 Springdale, Arkansas, before returning to the Marshall Independent
16 School District, and she currently teaches first grade and third
17 grade literacy at Robert E. Lee Elementary School; she is also an
18 educational consultant for the National Writing Project and has
19 presented several workshops in reading, writing, and math; and

20 WHEREAS, In addition to receiving the Region VII Teacher of
21 the Year designation, Mrs. Walker has been named the Marshall ISD
22 Elementary Teacher of the Year and the Robert E. Lee Elementary
23 Teacher of the Year; moreover, this esteemed educator is active in
24 the National Education Association, the Texas Classroom Teachers

1 Association, and the Parent Teacher Association; and

2 WHEREAS, Through the years, Mrs. Walker has reached beyond
3 the classroom and has contributed to the schools she has worked with
4 by engaging in numerous campus activities, including pep rallies
5 and musicals, and by coaching soccer; taking inspiration from the
6 John Dewey quote "Education is not preparation for life, education
7 is life itself," Mrs. Walker seeks to teach the children in her
8 classes the importance of giving to others, and she has organized a
9 service project for her students that benefits local animal
10 shelters; and

11 WHEREAS, Teachers play an important role in fostering the
12 intellectual and social development of children during their
13 formative years, and Ruthie Walker has helped to set countless
14 pupils on the path toward future achievement; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
16 Legislature hereby congratulate Ruthie Meeks Walker on her
17 selection as the 2009 Region VII Elementary Teacher of the Year and
18 extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success and
19 happiness; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Mrs. Walker as an expression of high regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives.

Hughes

H.R. No. 584

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 584 was adopted by the House on
February 23, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House