

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 584

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.