

By: Price

H.C.R. No. 128

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Shanna Peeples of the Amarillo Independent School
2 District has been named the 2015 National Teacher of the Year by the
3 Council of Chief State School Officers; and

4 WHEREAS, The chair of the English department at Palo Duro
5 High School, Ms. Peeples teaches AP English and English III; she
6 has distinguished herself through her exceptional dedication to
7 helping students from all backgrounds realize their full potential;
8 she also serves as a compassionate mentor to her students; she
9 further benefits the campus as an instructional coach, as National
10 Honor Society cosponsor, and as a member of the textbook adoption
11 committee and the D-FORCE positive behavioral support committee;
12 after school hours, she opens her classroom for use as a safe space
13 for informal writing and discussion groups; and

14 WHEREAS, This dynamic educator has been a member of the
15 Amarillo Independent School District English Language Arts
16 Standards committee since 2009; moreover, she has conducted
17 literacy workshops for K-12 teachers, and she has presented
18 numerous papers at staff development events and professional
19 conferences of organizations such as the National Council of
20 Teachers of English, the Texas Council of Teachers of English
21 Language Arts, and Abydos Learning International; in addition, she
22 is active in the wider community in initiatives that promote
23 literacy and the development of writing ability; and

24 WHEREAS, Before joining the faculty at Palo Duro High School,

1 Ms. Peeples taught seventh grade English Language Arts at Horace
2 Mann Middle School in Amarillo; she completed her bachelor's degree
3 in English at West Texas A&M University and went on to earn a
4 master's degree in education from The University of Texas at
5 Arlington, specializing in curriculum and instruction with an
6 emphasis in literacy studies; and

7 WHEREAS, Ms. Peeples works vigorously to understand the
8 challenges faced by each of her students and tailors the learning
9 environment to meet their needs; she uses these skills to guide the
10 college-bound, assist those who come from foreign nations and have
11 spent little time in classroom settings, and advises parents about
12 the importance of education to the future prospects of their
13 children; and

14 WHEREAS, It could be said that Ms. Peeples is in the hope
15 business; she assists students in coping with the trials of
16 adolescence by encouraging self-expression in writing exercises; a
17 kind and caring mentor, she devotes countless hours to advising
18 youngsters, and she conveys her respect for their traditions by
19 accepting invitations to cultural events; she was previously
20 selected as 2015 Texas Teacher of the Year and 2015 Region 16
21 Secondary Teacher of the Year; and

22 WHEREAS, Shanna Peeples is devoted to providing young Texans
23 with the knowledge and skills they need to realize their dreams, and
24 her passion, determination, and commitment to excellence are an
25 inspiration to her students and fellow educators alike; and

26 WHEREAS, In her role as National Teacher of the Year,
27 Ms. Peeples will travel extensively as a spokesperson for her

1 profession, sharing her knowledge, experience, and passion for
2 education to inspire her colleagues across the country; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
5 hereby congratulate Shanna Peeples on her selection as the 2015
6 National Teacher of the Year and extend to her sincere best wishes
7 for continued success in her important work; and, be it further

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