

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 240

BY SENATORS GATTI AND PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

To commend outstanding educator, Ruth Shirley Heidecker of Bossier City, Louisiana, for her many contributions made on behalf of public education, and to congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement after forty-three years in the education profession.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heidecker announced her retirement from Apollo Elementary School after a stellar career as a first-grade teacher of reading and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Ruth Heidecker was an exemplary educator and a passionate advocate for elementary education; and she was always patient with her students, willing to go the extra mile for administrators, and supportive of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heidecker felt an obligation to provide encouragement and inspiration to her students so they would develop a lifelong interest in reading and learning; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Heidecker possesses a gracious demeanor and a keen intellect having earned a bachelor of science degree from Northeast Louisiana University (now known as University of Louisiana at Monroe) and a master's degree in education from Centenary College in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Heidecker is a certified elementary teacher and reading specialist who has applied her tireless work ethic to improve the classroom experience for the benefit of her students and she is also faculty supervisor of teacher education candidates; and

WHEREAS, she has witnessed advancements in educational practices during her career and has implemented numerous innovations in reading instruction that include Accelerated Reader, sight word applications, and phonics; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Heidecker is most praiseworthy for her exceptional dedication to the teaching profession, a vocation that resonates in every fiber of her being, and for her intense involvement in improved scholastic achievement for the hundreds of students entrusted to her care; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2018, Mrs. Heidecker will relinquish First Grade Room #103 to a new teacher, a classroom she had occupied since the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Heidecker has proved to be an educator of boundless energy and ability, a person of great empathy and vision, and a teacher whose devotion to education has been a priceless gift to the public school system of Bossier Parish and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Ruth Heidecker for her many contributions to further the pursuits of elementary education and reading proficiency in young students and does hereby recognizes her for a lifetime of devotion to the education profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Ruth Shirley Heidecker and Laura Leflett, principal of Apollo Elementary School.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE