

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 262

By Carr

A RESOLUTION recognizing Tracey Rains, recipient of the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award.

WHEREAS, at a time in our society when grades, academic performance, and higher-order thinking activities so readily define educational success, it is fitting that professional educators be recognized and acclaimed for the inspirational qualities they possess and the aid and assistance they render to students so that social and economic barriers to secondary and higher education are not insurmountable; and

WHEREAS, some ten years ago, a friendship emerged between Gatlinburg-Pittman High School English teacher Tracey Rains and then-freshman Chelsea Hayes that the latter describes today as inspiring and precious; and

WHEREAS, more than a decade later, Ms. Hayes submitted a nomination of Mrs. Rains for special recognition; on the strength of that recommendation, Mrs. Rains has been chosen as one of this year's thirteen recipients of the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award; and

WHEREAS, this Kennedy Center honor is competitively awarded to teachers who have had an extraordinary impact on the lives of their students, and comes to Mrs. Rains for the intellectual stimulation and encouragement she gave Ms. Hayes in their teacher-student relationship; and

WHEREAS, beyond that, Mrs. Rains fulfilled an even greater role of responsibility when Ms. Hayes's mother was seriously injured during Chelsea's junior year and unable to fully support her daughter. Mrs. Rains made sure Chelsea's daily needs were met, and that her aspirations for higher education were nurtured and allowed to flourish; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hayes attributes her current life as a Duke University graduate and student at the University of Kentucky School of Law as flowing from the direct influence that Tracey Rains has had in her life; and

WHEREAS, Tracey Rains personifies the best qualities in training and supporting students during the critical years of their secondary educations, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize her at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and applaud Gatlinburg-Pittman High School teacher Tracey Rains upon her receipt of the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award, thank her for being an exceptionally inspiring teacher for her students, and extend to her our best wishes for success in her every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.