

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 429

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend educators Jean Wortman and Christi Prater for their act of heroism.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those Tennesseans who, without hesitation, take action to protect the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, two such individuals are teaching assistant Jean Wortman and teacher Christi Prater, both of Mary Blount Elementary School; their fastidiousness and compassionate concern helped save the life of a parent in peril; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2021, during a Google Meet online session with four students for a math lesson, Ms. Wortman noticed that something was amiss with the mother of one of the students in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the woman was slumped over and not as attentive as usual; when Ms. Wortman asked her if she was all right, the woman was unable to answer—her voice was altered and her words were unintelligible; and

WHEREAS, Jean Wortman immediately alerted Ms. Prater, and they called 911, reassuring and dismissing other students in the session while remaining online with the eight-year-old girl until help arrived for her mother; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Prater checked in later with the other students to let them know that everything was okay; and

WHEREAS, Jean Wortman has been teaching elementary students in Blount County Schools for more than half a century, and Christi Prater has been teaching for seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to around sixty-five students who are still in full-time virtual learning, those Mary Blount Elementary School teachers who work with students online, including Ms. Wortman and Ms. Prater, also serve some students from other Blount County elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wortman and Ms. Prater are wholly committed to the highest tenets of public service and quality education for all; and

WHEREAS, both educators have been duly honored with the Citizen Service Award by the Blount County Sheriff's Office for their recent act of heroism; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wortman and Ms. Prater's quick thinking and active empathy helped save a woman during a medical emergency, and it is wholly fitting that they be honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mary Blount Elementary School educators Jean Wortman and Christi Prater for their heroic actions on February 9, 2021, extending our sincere gratitude for their ceaseless service to the students and parents of Blount County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.