

No. R-489. House concurrent resolution congratulating Donna Smith on her receipt of the 2010 Patricia Cummings Pierce Excellence in Teaching Award.

(H.C.R.357)

Offered by: Representatives Clark of Vergennes and Bray of New Haven

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Giard

Whereas, annually, the Addison Northeast Supervisory Union, the Five Town Business Council (a division of the Addison County Chamber of Commerce serving the needs of businesses in Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven, and Starksboro), and the Mount Abraham Union High School Parent Teacher Organization recognize outstanding school personnel in the five towns “who have gone ‘above and beyond’ in contributing to the success of our youth in an educational environment and in promoting excellence in education,” and

Whereas, among the awards presented is the Patricia Cummings Pierce Excellence in Teaching Award which the Tari Shattuck Education Foundation sponsors, and

Whereas, the 2010 winner of the Patricia Cummings Pierce Excellence in Teaching Award is Donna Smith who, for over 25 years, has been an enthusiastic faculty member of Beeman Elementary School in New Haven, and

Whereas, her nominators stated that “if Donna Smith were a building, she would be the foundation,” meaning she is at the core of the education process at Beeman Elementary School, and

Whereas, her colleagues describe Donna Smith as their unsung hero, always placing the needs of her students above her own, and

Whereas, the teaching style Donna Smith practices is imbued with patience, persistence, and good humor, and

Whereas, she instills a sense of self-confidence in her students, enabling them to declare “I can do this,” and

Whereas, Donna Smith’s work experiences have covered the breadth of the school’s grades from preschool to grade 6, and she has a legendary reputation for volunteering to assist with extracurricular activities and community projects, and

Whereas, her pedagogic philosophy is rooted in collaborating with colleagues and bringing their best attributes to the forefront, and

Whereas, Donna Smith, who is closing her classroom door for the final time this June, exemplifies the best aspects of the teaching profession and is a most worthy recipient of this distinguished award, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Donna Smith on her receipt of the 2010 Patricia Cummings Pierce Excellence in Teaching Award and wishes her a wonderful retirement, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Donna Smith and to Beeman Elementary School.