

## 2006 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 490

*Commending Ruth Brannigan.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 10, 2006

Agreed to by the Senate, March 11, 2006

WHEREAS, Ruth Brannigan, a fourth-grade social studies teacher at Mount Vernon Community School, a public elementary school in Alexandria, was named 2005-2006 Elementary Teacher of the Year by the Virginia Council for the Social Studies; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Council for the Social Studies (VCSS) presents an annual award to an elementary school social studies teacher who makes social studies lively, engaging, and informative for students, and develops thinking skills and habits of inquiry necessary for an informed citizenry in a democracy; Ruth Brannigan was found to have these teaching attributes; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Brannigan has been a teacher at Mount Vernon Community School for eight years and taught social studies, language arts, and the Dual Language Program, English portion and has been a teacher mentor; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Brannigan was a contributing author on "Helping Children Cope with the Challenges of War and Terrorism," and developed and organized the student and community Memorial Day tribute to Alexandria's war dead at the Rocky Versace Memorial; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Brannigan developed and presented the innovative and entertaining "Singing the SOL's" for the Virginia Social Studies Educators Conference and was a co-presenter for "Teachable Moments: Supporting School Mental Health in the Classroom" at a national conference on school based mental health services; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Brannigan's lively lessons and enthusiasm make her a favorite among students; she incorporates fun into her lessons while being an exemplary social studies professional; and

WHEREAS, a gifted educator, Ruth Brannigan is a member of Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Sorority for Women Educators and a worthy recipient of the VCSS teacher of the year award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Ruth Brannigan, a fourth-grade social studies teacher at Mount Vernon Community School, an Alexandria City public elementary school, for being named 2005-2006 Teacher of the Year by the Virginia Council for the Social Studies; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ruth Brannigan as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and gratitude for her exceptional commitment to the education of the young people of Alexandria and the Commonwealth.

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