



The State of Texas House of Representatives

H.R. No. 904

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Educators from the Callisburg Independent School District and schools in Kesennuma, Japan, are taking part in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Master Teacher Program, and their inspiring exchange of ideas is enhancing the quality of education for students in both countries; and

WHEREAS, The Master Teacher Program is a remarkable collaboration between Japanese and American educators that furthers cross-cultural learning and the development of international curricula and allows students of different nationalities to work together in researching important issues; and

WHEREAS, In the course of the program, the teachers visit their partner country to learn more about the community and school they are collaborating with; through these visits and online activities, they develop joint science projects that will be carried out by their students later in the year; also taking part in the project are authorities from universities and businesses in the United States and Japan, who provide vital expertise to the students and assist them in performing research; and

WHEREAS, The Japanese participants in the Callisburg-Kesennuma joint venture include Yukihiro Oikawa of the Kesennuma City Board of Education, Noriko Memezawa of the Miyagi University of Education Environmental Education Center, Yuichi Hatakeyama of Kesennuma Omose Elementary School, Seiichi Yokoyama and Hiroko Miyazaki of Kesennuma Shishiori Elementary School, Katsushi Komatsu and Satoru Miura of Kesennuma Omose Junior High School, and Takanobu Kato and Satoka Sawauchi of Miyagi Prefectural Kesennuma High School; and

WHEREAS, Their counterparts from Texas include Donald Metzler, the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for Callisburg ISD, Danita Ortowski and Deana Melancon of Callisburg Elementary School, Tom Demetrian and Carla Taylor of Callisburg Middle School, Tim Jones of Callisburg High School, Dr. Eddie Hadlock, the president of North Central Texas College, Lisa Bellows, department chair, and Sara Flusche of the science department at North Central Texas College, Dr. Carol Fletcher of the Texas Regional Collaborative for Excellence in Science Teaching, and Dr. Molly Weinburgh, the director of Instructional Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education at Texas Christian University; and


WHEREAS, Both the Callisburg and Kesennuma educators have taken part in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund joint ventures in each of the past three years; the Texas school district has become an especially prominent player among the American contingent in the Master Teacher Program, providing three of the 10 U.S. schools selected for 2007; and

WHEREAS, The students in the Callisburg-Kesennuma collaboration are studying water quality in rivers near their communities and will share their findings through monthly video conferences; these activities will allow them to learn important scientific and environmental information as well as foster greater understanding between the two nations, and it is a pleasure to recognize all of the participants in this rewarding program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas Legislature hereby honor the Japanese and Texas educators taking part in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Master Teacher Program and extend to them best wishes for success in their educational project; and, be it further

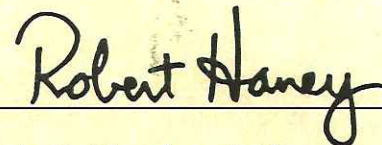
RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for participants of the program as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Hardcastle

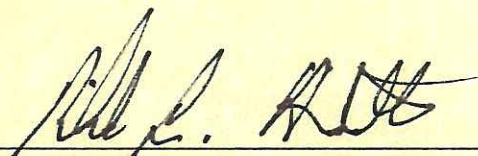


Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 904 was adopted by the House on April 5, 2007, by a non-record vote.



Chief Clerk of the House



Member