

House Resolution 100EX2

By: Representative Golick of the 30<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and congratulating Nickajack Elementary School; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Nickajack Elementary School was one of eight schools and one school district  
3 selected nationwide as a 2001 National School of Character in recognition of exemplary  
4 work to encourage the social, ethical, and academic development of students through  
5 character education; and

6 WHEREAS, National Schools of Character is an annual awards program sponsored and  
7 administered by the Character Education Partnership, a national nonprofit, nonpartisan, and  
8 nonsectarian coalition based in Washington, D.C.; and

9 WHEREAS, Nickajack Elementary School principal Mona G. Tucker and school counselor  
10 Cindy Szwec began implementing character education before the State of Georgia required  
11 character education; and

12 WHEREAS, Nickajack Elementary School's mission has been defined as creating a positive  
13 atmosphere to support and nourish moral development, help students form the habits of good  
14 character, and instill in students intrinsic moral motivation; and

15 WHEREAS, this remarkable school with great ethnic diversity among students and an  
16 attendance zone which includes the full socioeconomic range is recognized for its pervading  
17 sense of mutual respect, where students, through the inclusion and acceptance of special  
18 needs students as equal members of the class, develop a greater understanding of respect for  
19 others; and

20 WHEREAS, among the excellent and innovative programs adopted by this admirable school  
21 are the Bully Prevention Program; the Character Club; a peer mediation program; the Book  
22 Buddies Program, which pairs older students with younger students; teams of Brave Buddies

1 who welcome new students to Nickajack; and encouragement of service learning initiatives;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the P.T.A. has a strong parent character education committee which offers  
4 well-attended parent workshops throughout the year emphasizing the parents' roles in  
5 supporting the moral development of their children; and

6 WHEREAS, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 2000 commended  
7 Nickajack's character education program as fully supported by parents, students, and staff,  
8 and as strengthening the school-wide discipline plan; and

9 WHEREAS, data indicate a 50 percent annual decrease in office referrals for students who  
10 have remained at the school for the past three years.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
12 the members of this body commend and congratulate Nickajack Elementary School, a 2001  
13 National School of Character, for its innovative and effective character education program.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
15 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Nickajack Elementary  
16 School.