

House Resolution 357

By: Representative Benton of the 31<sup>st</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Mrs. Denise Backus; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mrs. Denise Backus is widely recognized throughout her community and the  
3 state as the personification of excellence in education; and
- 4 WHEREAS, this highly respected teacher has served with honor and distinction as a  
5 professional educator at East Jackson Comprehensive High School where she teaches  
6 history; and
- 7 WHEREAS, in recognition of her outstanding dedication to academic achievement, she has  
8 been named East Jackson Comprehensive High School's 2009 STAR Teacher; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Backus attended Indiana University before transferring to the University  
10 of Georgia to earn a bachelor's degree in special education; and
- 11 WHEREAS, her first position in education was at South Jackson Elementary, where she  
12 taught students affected with severe emotional and behavioral issues as part of the Rutland  
13 Psychoeducational Program; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Backus later earned a master's degree in special education before moving  
15 overseas to work in Okinawa, Japan, on the Kadena Air Base for the Department of Defense;  
16 and
- 17 WHEREAS, upon returning to the United States, Mrs. Backus taught at East Jackson Middle  
18 School and then transferred to East Jackson Comprehensive High School; and
- 19 WHEREAS, she is a shining example of the important impact that the efforts of individual  
20 classroom teachers are making on the quality of education received by the children of this

21 state, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that her superlative accomplishments be  
22 recognized appropriately.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
24 the members of this body heartily and gratefully commend Mrs. Denise Backus for her  
25 sacrifice, foresight, accomplishment, and contributions on behalf of education in Georgia and  
26 for the positive influence she has had upon the lives and futures of so many young people in  
27 this state and congratulate her upon her being named East Jackson Comprehensive High  
28 School's 2009 STAR Teacher.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Denise Backus.