

House Resolution 794

By: Representatives Coleman of the 97th, Clark of the 101st, Maxwell of the 17th, Dickson of the 6th, Tanner of the 9th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating Lauren Eckman, the 2013 Georgia Teacher of the Year; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a proper quality education for the young people of this state is the single most
4 important objective of the General Assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, in recognition of her dedication to challenging the future leaders of this state,
6 Lauren Eckman has been named the 2013 Georgia Teacher of the Year; and

7 WHEREAS, as Georgia's Teacher of the Year, Lauren will represent Georgia teachers by
8 speaking to the public about the teaching profession and conducting workshops and programs
9 for educators; and

10 WHEREAS, Lauren graduated salutatorian of her class from Douglas County High School
11 and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in English with secondary certification, summa
12 cum laude, with honors at Wesleyan College; she also graduated summa cum laude from the
13 University of Louisville, where she earned her master's degree in special education with
14 certification in visual impairments; and

15 WHEREAS, this highly respected educator is a teacher of the blind and visually impaired at
16 the Georgia Academy for the Blind, where she teaches high school English language arts and
17 transition courses; and

18 WHEREAS, a strong advocate for special education, Lauren works diligently to empower
19 her students to achieve their highest levels of independence by aiding them in the acquisition
20 of reading, writing, research, and analytical skills in the traditional curriculum; and

21 WHEREAS, Lauren also assists her students in the development of self-advocacy as well as
22 social and daily living skills in the Expanded Core Curriculum, a prescription of specialized
23 courses designed to provide compensatory skills to individuals with visual impairments; and

24 WHEREAS, Lauren believes strongly in high expectations for all students and that all
25 students can achieve through appropriate differentiation; through these convictions, she has
26 helped her students gain the knowledge necessary to pass high-stakes testing, such as the
27 Georgia High School Graduation Writing Test, on which her students have had a 100 percent
28 pass rate for seven out of the eight years that she has taught at the Academy; and

29 WHEREAS, in recognition of her contributions to the education and welfare of young people
30 in this state, it is abundantly fitting and proper for this body to honor the extraordinary
31 accomplishments and academic achievements of this outstanding individual.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body commend heartily Lauren Eckman, the 2013 Georgia Teacher of
34 the Year, and express to her their sincerest best wishes for continued success in the future.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Lauren Eckman.