

House Resolution 345

By: Representatives McCall of the 33rd, Epps of the 144th, and England of the 116th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Walter Parks on being named the 2013-2014 Georgia Association of Career
2 and Technical Educators Teacher of the Year for Agriculture and inviting him to be
3 recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Walter Parks is from Cochran, Georgia; is the Agricultural Education teacher
5 and FFA advisor at his Alma Mater, Bleckley County High School; and was honored as the
6 2013-2014 Georgia Association of Career and Technical Educators Teacher of the year for
7 Agriculture; and

8 WHEREAS, he has been teaching for 13 years; has also taught agriculture at Dodge County
9 High School and Hawkinsville High School; and prior to teaching, was a county Extension
10 Agent in Floyd County, Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, he received an Associates of Science Degree in Agriculture from Abraham
12 Baldwin Agricultural College, his Bachelor of Science Degree in Crop Science, and a Master
13 of Science in Agronomy Degree from the University of Georgia and is currently pursuing a
14 Doctoral degree in Adult Education from Valdosta State University; and

15 WHEREAS, through the leadership of Mr. Parks and his co-teacher Mr. Doyle Floyd, the
16 Bleckley County FFA is a strong, successful chapter at not only the local and area level, but
17 also at the state and national level, winning numerous awards and accolades at each level;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Bleckley County FFA chapter currently has over 200 members or almost
20 one-third of the Bleckley County High School population being FFA members, and FFA
21 Career Development Events (CDE's) are the culmination of hours, weeks, and sometimes
22 years of hard work; and

23 WHEREAS, in the classroom, Mr. Parks endeavors to create a positive and engaging
24 learning environment; he incorporates teacher-focused as well as student-focused instruction,
25 much of the learning in his classes is hands-on, and many of his lessons are applied to real
26 world situations; and

27 WHEREAS, since he realizes that today's student is immersed in technology, Mr. Parks is
28 also passionate about using technology to engage learners and has developed an online
29 learning management system that allows his students to take tests, review lessons online, and
30 prepare for CDE's; and

31 WHEREAS, he has been recognized professionally as GACTE Agriculture Teacher of the
32 Year, Rotary teacher of the month, GVATA Outstanding Secondary Agriculture Program,
33 National Winner in the Weekly Extension Agent newspaper column, and National Runner-up
34 Extension Agent-Developed Website; and

35 WHEREAS, Mr. Parks is married to his lovely wife, Sheryl, and they have three wonderful
36 children, Elizabeth, Ethan, and Eli.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body commend Walter Parks on being named the 2013-2014 Georgia
39 Association of Career and Technical Educators Teacher of the Year for Agriculture and
40 invite him to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be
41 determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
44 Walter Parks.