

House Resolution 780

By: Representatives Tankersley of the 160th, Burns of the 159th, and Parrish of the 158th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Kelly Tankersley, Effingham County's 2015 Special Education Teacher of the
2 Year; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Kelly Tankersley of Bulloch County, Georgia, is an adjunct staff member at
4 Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia, and has been a special education teacher
5 for 17 years at Sand Hill Elementary School in Guyton, Georgia; she has been selected as
6 Effingham County's 2015 Special Education Teacher of the Year; and

7 WHEREAS, Kelly was honored at the Special Educator of the Year Awards Luncheon on
8 February 27, 2015; the banquet was sponsored by the Coastal Georgia Learning Resources
9 System and held at the Jekyll Island Convention Center on Jekyll Island, Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, Kelly Tankersley, like all teachers, strives to make a difference not only in the
11 lives of her students, but also in the community and the world; in her elementary special
12 education classes, Mrs. Kelly's students have the opportunity to show the world that these
13 most special children can make a difference and contribute to their community; and

14 WHEREAS, she created the "Greet-n-Treat" project for her students to showcase their
15 abilities; the students bake homemade dog treats, design bags for the treats to be packaged
16 in, and give the treats out once a month to the dogs that ride along with students who are
17 dropped off for school; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Kelly provides the structure and support her students need so they can see
19 that they can have a positive impact on their world; it is Kelly Tankersley's dream that her
20 students not be pitied or viewed as disabled or unable, and she wants her students to know
21 that they can be kind, give back, and make a difference; and

22 WHEREAS, Kelly Tankersley and her sweet beagle, Atticus, a trained therapy dog, have
23 made numerous visits to the Ogeechee Area Hospice in Statesboro, Georgia, bringing a few
24 moments of joy and comfort to those who are suffering, alone, or in pain; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Kelly and Atticus have also visited classrooms to allow students to see that
26 service to others does not have to be a big production; service to others can be just a small
27 thing that makes a big difference, which is the idea she models and teaches to her students;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, students in Mrs. Kelly's class have participated in community involvement
30 activities, including participating in canned food drives for the local food pantry, gathering
31 supplies for the local animal shelter, and collecting treats and goodies for chemotherapy
32 patients; Mrs. Kelly ensures the students meet the representatives from these organizations
33 so the students can see how grateful the recipients are and have some idea of the difference
34 they have made not only in their own lives, but also in someone else's life and in their
35 community; and

36 WHEREAS, in recognition of Kelly Tankersley's contributions to the education and welfare
37 of young people in this state, it is abundantly fitting and proper for this body to honor the
38 extraordinary accomplishments and academic achievements of this outstanding individual.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body commend Kelly Tankersley, Effingham County's 2015 Special
41 Education Teacher of the Year, and express to her their most sincere best wishes for
42 continued success in the future.

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