

No. R-52. House concurrent resolution congratulating Jennifer Lawson of Waltham on being named the 2011 Vermont Teacher of the Year.

(H.C.R.28)

Offered by: Representatives Clark of Vergennes and Lanpher of Vergennes

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Giard

Whereas, pedagogic proficiency mixed with enthusiasm and empathy for students are the fundamental prerequisites for a successful teacher, and

Whereas, in association with the Council of Chief State School Officers National Teacher of the Year award program, the Vermont department of education annually honors one Vermont teacher for special praise as the Vermont Teacher of the Year, and

Whereas, this much-coveted recognition is awarded based on an intensive evaluation of nominated individuals, and

Whereas, the department of education determined that among the many nominees, Jennifer Lawson, a middle school social studies and language arts teacher at Vergennes Union High School and Middle School, was the ideal choice, and

Whereas, she graduated from the University of Vermont as an elementary education major and subsequently earned her master's degree from Connecticut College, and

Whereas, prior to beginning her current teaching position, Jennifer Lawson taught at the Vergennes Union Elementary School for six years, and

Whereas, her teaching style emphasizes becoming acquainted with each student's educational strengths and weaknesses and always keeping them in mind as she instructs her classes, and

Whereas, Jennifer Lawson espouses a special goal of "celebrating her students and broadening their perspective of the world," and

Whereas, one of her favorite teaching rituals is an educational exercise she labels "echoes" in which students recite a statement of fact and a classmate responds with a rejoinder, and

Whereas, greatly humbled to have been selected as the 2011 Vermont Teacher of the Year, Jennifer Lawson described the accolade as more of an award honoring her students than her, and

Whereas, Jennifer Lawson is continuing a family tradition as her father, Robert Lawson, recently retired from the University of Vermont faculty after a 44-year tenure, and he has described his daughter's teaching techniques, which he has observed firsthand, as coming from both her heart and her mind, and

Whereas, during the school assembly at which Jennifer Lawson was presented the glass apple symbolizing this award, the student body displayed its enthusiastic approval, and

Whereas, as the 2011 Vermont Teacher of the Year, Jennifer Lawson is speaking to groups across the state and will represent Vermont at the National Teacher of the Year competition in Washington, D.C., now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Jennifer Lawson of Waltham on being named the 2011 Vermont Teacher of the Year, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jennifer Lawson at Vergennes Union High School and Middle School.