

H. 4/15/98 *adopted*
APR 7 1998

Laid Over Under Rule 25

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.
BY FALLON
(COMPANION TO LSB 4412SS BY SZYMONIAK)

A House Resolution congratulating Ms. Ruth Ann Gaines for being named the Iowa Teacher of the Year for 1998.

WHEREAS, Ms. Ruth Ann Gaines earned her undergraduate degree from Clark College in Dubuque and her master's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gaines has worked as a drama teacher at East High School in Des Moines for 27 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gaines created a high school mime troupe "Scarlet Vibrations" and an award-winning performance group "Voices of Change," the student members of which write and perform nationally on diversity-related topics; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gaines seeks out students who are academically or personally at-risk, encouraging the students to join the drama program as a means to build self-esteem, and as a result of her efforts, more students are enrolled in the East High School drama program than are enrolled in any other Des Moines high school drama program; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gaines believes that teaching is an art form and daily crafts an atmosphere where each student can achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gaines has been an activist for cultural and racial understanding, creating both a student and a teacher "leadership council" and conducting numerous workshops for fellow teachers on

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1 the issues of cultural awareness and diversity; and
2 WHEREAS, Ms. Gaines was nominated for Teacher of
3 the Year by the Principal of East High School and was
4 selected for the award by a panel of judges composed
5 of representatives from the Iowa Department of
6 Education, the Iowa State Education Association, the
7 School Administrators of Iowa, the Parent Teacher
8 Association, and other professionals; and

9 WHEREAS, as Iowa's Teacher of the Year, Ms. Gaines
10 is granted a one-year sabbatical to visit schools and
11 speak to community groups as Iowa's Ambassador for
12 Education during the 1998-1999 school year; and

13 WHEREAS, educators representing 14 national
14 education organizations nationally selected Ms.
15 Gaines from among the teachers of the year in each of
16 the 50 states to be one of four finalists for 1998
17 National Teacher of the Year, to be announced in April
18 1998 by the President of the United States; NOW
19 THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
21 That the House of Representatives honors Ms. Ruth Ann
22 Gaines of East High School in Des Moines for her
23 exemplary work in education, applauds her efforts and
24 achievements in bringing out the best in East High
25 School's students, and congratulates her for her
26 outstanding accomplishment in being named the Iowa
27 Teacher of the Year for 1998.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of
29 this Resolution be prepared for presentation to Ms.
30 Ruth Ann Gaines.