

S-4-8-98 Do Pass
S-4-15-98 Adopted

FILED APR 6 1998

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY SZYMONIAK

(COMPANION TO LSB 4412HH BY FALLON)

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Ms. Gaines has been an activist for
25 cultural and racial understanding, creating both a
26 student and a teacher "leadership council" and
27 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 SENATE, That the Senate
21 honors Ms. Ruth Ann Gaines of East High School in Des
22 Moines for her exemplary work in education, applauds
23 her efforts and achievements in bringing out the best
24 in East High School's students, and congratulates her
25 for her outstanding accomplishment in being named the
26 Iowa Teacher of the Year for 1998.

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

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