- 1 HJR211
- 2 219398-1
- 3 By Representative Collins
- 4 RFD: Rules
- 5 First Read: 29-MAR-22

1	219398-1:n:03/29/2022:SM/sm LSA2022-1117
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8	COMMENDING CATHY W. GASSENHEIMER FOR PROFESSIONAL
9	ACHIEVEMENTS.
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11	WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein extended to
12	Cathy W. Gassenheimer in recognition of her far-reaching
13	contributions and outstanding leadership in the A-Plus
14	Education Partnership, a nonprofit organization in Montgomery,
15	Alabama, that works to create great schools and to ensure
16	every Alabama student has the opportunity to graduate prepared
17	for college, career, and life; and
18	WHEREAS, Cathy W. Gassenheimer was recruited to
19	serve as A-Plus Education Partnership's first employee in
20	1991; her guiding spirit and expert leadership has helped the
21	development of A-Plus Education Partnership's Blueprint for
22	Successful Alabama Schools and assisted in the campaign to
23	broaden the coalition of Alabamians committed to improving
24	education by organizing 22 town hall meetings across the State
25	of Alabama, with over 23,000 joining the quest for a better

education; and

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WHEREAS, in 1977, Cathy W. Gassenheimer graduated with honors from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's Degree in Speech Communications and with minors in English, Drama, and Education; later, she earned a Master's Degree in Political Science from George Washington University; early in her career, working for Congressman Bill Dickinson in Washington, D.C., Blount International, and the Business Council of Alabama, prepared her for working at A-Plus Education Partnership; her interest in education was sparked while working as an adjunct professor at Auburn University in Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, she has helped lead the growth and success of the organization by initiating a focus on quality teaching by establishing, in 1999, the Task Force on Teaching and Student Learning, which published the report that laid the foundation that still continues today, Teaching and Learning: Meeting the Challenge of High Standards; early results of the task force include adoption of national standards for professional development, a \$5,000 stipend for teachers earning certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and the establishment of the A-Plus Education Partnership's Best Practices Center; and

WHEREAS, serving as the Vice President of A-Plus Education Partnership's Best Practices Center, she has established networks for educators to improve student achievement in math and reading, including the Powerful

Conversations Network, Key Leaders and Superintendents
Networks, and the Instructional Partners Network; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Cathy W. Gassenheimer is a prolific author; her works range from the initial journal for Alabama Educators, Working Toward Excellence, to articles for national publications, including the Phi Delta Kappan, the professional journal for educators, and Education Week, the national education newspaper; she has been recognized by many educators and has received the Southeastern Principal's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education and the Alabama Staff Development Council's Staff Developer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the inspirational leadership of Cathy W. Gassenheimer, while inspiring all of those around her, has had a tremendous impact upon teacher and student achievement in the State of Alabama, including 14 regional networks serving over 27,000 educators in 112 school systems; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Cathy W. Gassenheimer is honored and commended after 31 years of service to Alabama students and educators, and this resolution is offered in highest tribute and deepest appreciation to her in recognition of her outstanding achievements, along with our best wishes in her well-deserved retirement.