

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 194

BY SENATOR GATTI

A RESOLUTION

To commend Rachel Valentine on being named Bossier Parish 2017-2018 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, Rachel Valentine teaches social studies to sixth grade students at Benton Middle School, in Benton, Louisiana in Bossier Parish; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Valentine's philosophy of teaching is that each year she sets both teaching and learning goals for herself and her students, who are her first priority; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Valentine believes that each new school year brings in a new group of students, each with their own individual learning needs, strengths, weaknesses, and dreams of a successful future, and as their teacher, it is her duty and privilege to help each of her students on their journey; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Valentine was born and raised in Bethany, Louisiana, to Monte and Carol Robinson, and she graduated from Huntington High School in 1994; and

WHEREAS, a 2000 graduate of Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Louisiana, Rachel Valentine earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education with a concentration in social studies; and

WHEREAS, later that year, Ms. Valentine began her teaching career at Woodlawn High School in Shreveport where she taught all areas of social studies through the 2009-2010 school year; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Valentine moved to First Baptist School Shreveport in 2010, where she taught all three middle school social studies classes and served as the advisor to the student council; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Rachel Valentine moved to Benton Middle School in Benton, Louisiana, where she teaches social studies to sixth grade students and has been the faculty advisor for the student council, taking students to the Louisiana Association of Student Council's state convention each year, leading the only school in Bossier Parish to attend this annual event; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Valentine moved to Bossier, Louisiana, in 2003 where she lives

with her two children, Mary Frances and Charlie, and has a strong bond with her family, both with her children and her larger extended family; and

WHEREAS, beyond her responsibilities as a parent and teacher, Ms. Valentine teaches middle school Sunday school at Benton United Methodist Church, where she also serves on the staff parish relations committee; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Valentine also volunteers at a nondenominational worship service for special needs adults and children at St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, where she helps lead the "Rhythms of Grace" activities; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Valentine comes from a large family on her mother's side and it is not unusual for over forty relatives to attend annual family vacations at Navarre Beach, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the process for selecting a Louisiana Teacher of the Year begins at the local level, with every public or public charter school district eligible to select a candidate to represent their district, subject to their own selection process and with individual local school nominations sent to the district for further review and consideration; and

WHEREAS, each district superintendent or public charter school district may select three outstanding teachers whose names are forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Education for competition at the statewide level, nominees are one each in the categories of elementary, middle school, and high school teachers; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Valentine has used her talent for teaching, not only in her classroom, but in the broader community, and she exemplifies all the best that one could ask for in a person teaching children and encouraging them in their academic, spiritual, and leadership roles as they move into adulthood and become good citizens of their community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Rachel Valentine on being named Bossier Parish 2017-2018 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Rachel Valentine in care of Benton Middle School.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE