

his caliber are rare, but his exemplary career is one to be admired. I rise today to commend Cecil Turner and thank him for his service to the people of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING ANNETTE SMITH AS
THE 2012 SANTA ROSA COUNTY,
FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Annette Smith as the 2012 Santa Rosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year. For 25 years, Mrs. Smith has been an inspiration to her students, motivating them to achieve academic excellence.

Mrs. Smith began her teaching career at Baghdad Elementary School, before transfer-

ring to S.S. Dixon Elementary School. She taught 4th and 5th grades at S.S. Dixon Elementary school until 1994, when she moved to S.S. Dixon Intermediate School.

Mrs. Smith is highly respected by her colleagues for her work and dedication to her students. She is well known for her work with at-risk students. From 1992–2005, Mrs. Smith taught in the Drop-Out Prevention/Alpha Program. In order to succeed as a teacher for these at-risk students, Mrs. Smith had to transcend the traditional teaching role. She acted as a teacher, mentor, and role model for these students. Her assiduous work ethic inspires her students, and creates an atmosphere where failure is nearly impossible.

Mrs. Smith also volunteers her time with myriad educational programs. She is a trainer for Building Better Readers, Santa Rosa County's Team Teachers, the Diagnostic Assessments of Reading, and a master trainer for Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading. She is also the school coordinator for Pace High School/S.S. Dixon Intermedi-

ate's Leadership Program and the Patriot Pals Mentoring Program.

Teachers are amongst our most valuable public servants, and they play an integral role in shaping the future of our nation. The Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year award is a reflection of Mrs. Smith's tireless work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Santa Rosa County. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in our nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Annette Smith for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at S.S. Dixon Intermediate School and in the Santa Rosa County School District. Her passion for her students is laudable, and her dedication to her profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Smith, and we wish her all the best.