Mississippi Department of Education announces Congressional District 4 Parent of the Year finalist!

Jeannie Elizabeth Bolton, was nominated by the Perry County School District as an awesome mother, exceptional leader, and one who works above and beyond for the greater good of the education of her children. She was not only awarded District Parent of the Year but Perry County Vocational-Technical Center Parent of the Year. Bolton emphasizes that parental involvement is vital in all aspects of a child’s life and children with parental support have proven to be better achievers. Ms. Bolton is a well experienced parent who has been involved for thirty years in her children’s education; they are all well-educated and successful God-fearing children.

Bolton believes being involved eliminates discipline problems, as well as motivates the student’s self-esteem. “When parents support their child; there is no doubt that they are in support of the teachers and this makes the journey easier for the teachers,” said Bolton.

Ms. Bolton have volunteered countless hours of her time and talent to help with school functions. She served many years as the PTO secretary from elementary through high school, organized many fundraisers, and chaperoned many activities.

She has attended all events that they were involved in whether it consisted of athletics or academics. She volunteers throughout her community and provides services to help others when needed. She believes that education does not begin once you get inside the school setting but it begins at home. Parental involvement is a must; teachers cannot educate alone. After being a graduate of the Perry County School District herself and a graduate of William Carey University she knows the importance of applying yourself to do the best you can to get the best out of life. She instilled in her children that under no circumstances feel that you have to compete against anyone in anything; but just be yourself and do the best that you can do in whatever state you are in and that is all that is required. Ms. Bolton states that across these 30 years she has been asked over and over again, how she does it; she accredits her perseverance on her faith in God. She states she could not have done anything without God. She instilled this same mindset in her children to start each day with God and everything else will fall in place. Ms. Bolton was elated to be chosen for this honor but stated it only humbles her more as a parent and is appreciative that she was able to be a reflection of good parental support.

In closing, a favorite quote of Dr. M. L. King’s that Ms. Bolton reflects on often is this: *Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service… You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.*

As part of the annual Parent of the Year Program, MDE asks each district to select an outstanding parent who has made a significant impact on school improvement efforts in the school district.

The committee reviewed numerous applications submitted by school districts and selected one Parent of the year finalist from each of the four congressional districts. Congressional District 4 finalist is Jeannie Elizabeth Bolton, who was nominated by Perry County School District for her positive attitude, leadership, and strong work ethic for school improvement. She has four children, including one currently in the district.