

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 179

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To commend Jalen Scott of Baton Rouge on traveling to Nairobi, Kenya, to win the Grand Prize in the Golden Climate International Environmental Project Olympiad, the Wangari Maathai Special Award.

WHEREAS, Jalen Scott is an eight grade student at Kenilworth Science and Technology Charter School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, for a science fair project in 2013, Jalen Scott used a hand-held X-ray spectrometer provided by LSU Associate Professor David Weindorf to conduct scientific research on the amount of lead in the soil at eleven school playgrounds in the Baton Rouge area; and

WHEREAS, his research revealed that at four of the eleven playgrounds, lead levels exceeded United States Environmental Protection Agency screening limits; and

WHEREAS, the high quality of this research allowed Jason Scott, with the assistance of LSU graduate students, to have his research published in the academic journal, *Soil Horizons*; and

WHEREAS, this publication generated national attention for his research project and Jalen Scott was invited to Washington, D.C., where he met with the United States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, Senator Mary Landrieu, and Representative Bill Cassidy; and

WHEREAS, Jalen Scott was then selected as the only United States finalist to participate in the Golden Climate International Environmental Project Olympiad in Nairobi, Kenya, a contest which included one hundred thirty-five student competitors from thirty-one countries; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Climate International Environmental Project Olympiad is a science competition for primary and high school students which promotes a global

understanding of environmental issues and offers students challenges and opportunities for future participation in efforts at discovery of solutions for environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Wangari Maathai Special Award is named after environmentalist Wangari Maathai who was the first female African to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, Jalen Scott traveled to Nairobi, Kenya in May 2014, accompanied by his father, Sherman Scott, and his science teacher, Elkhan Akhundov, to participate in the Golden Climate International Environmental Project Olympiad and meet and engage with students from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Jalen Scott of Baton Rouge was awarded the 2014 Grand Prize of the Golden Climate International Environmental Project Olympiad, the Wangari Maathai Special Award on May 2, 2014.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Jalen Scott for winning the 2014 Wangari Maathai Special Award, the Grand Prize in the Golden Climate International Environmental Project Olympiad.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jalen Scott.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES