

No. R-208. House concurrent resolution congratulating Caroline Heydinger on winning second place at the American Legion national high school oratorical contest.

(H.C.R.144)

Offered by: Representatives O'Donnell of Vernon and Hube of Londonderry

Whereas, the American Legion national high school oratorical contest is conducted annually for students “to develop an understanding and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States,” and

Whereas, 53 separate state and territorial competitions are conducted throughout the country in order to select jurisdictional champions who then proceed to the national competition held in Indianapolis, Indiana, and

Whereas, in 2009, Caroline Heydinger of Vernon, a student at Brattleboro Union High School, entered the competition with the coaching assistance of Zachary Gates, an attorney in Keene, New Hampshire, and

Whereas, she prepared for the contest on a daily basis, researching different aspects of the United States Constitution and improving her oratorical skills in the delivery of both extemporaneous and prepared speeches, and

Whereas, Caroline Heydinger’s efforts proved successful as she was declared the Vermont champion at the state competition, and

Whereas, during the weeks prior to traveling to the national event in Indianapolis, Caroline practiced speaking before public groups, including fraternal organizations and the Vernon Selectboard, and

Whereas, for both the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds in Indianapolis, participants were assigned to speak for three to five minutes extemporaneously on one or two articles or amendments of the United States Constitution with the specific assignments being pulled out of a hat, and

Whereas, those fortunate students who survived the semifinal round were entered into the final competition, involving the delivery of a prepared 10-minute speech, and

Whereas, the topic Caroline Heydinger selected was the ultimate ability of the United States Constitution, despite the founding fathers being wealthy white males, to protect everyone, through the 13th Amendment (abolition of slavery), 14th Amendment (broadened definition of citizenship), 15th Amendment (not being denied right to vote based on race), and 19th Amendments (extending right to vote to women), and

Whereas, Caroline Heydinger presented her well-researched speech in such an outstanding manner that she was named the second place winner, a distinct honor, and the highest final national ranking a Brattleboro Union High School student has ever been awarded in this contest, and

Whereas, in recognition of her noteworthy achievement, Caroline Heydinger was awarded a total of \$19,000.00 in college scholarship money, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Caroline Heydinger on winning second place at the American Legion national high school oratorical contest, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Caroline Heydinger in Vernon.