



HR1277

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the members of the
4 Southern Illinois University debate team on the occasion of the
5 team's victory in the National Parliamentary Tournament of
6 Excellence; and

7 WHEREAS, The National Parliamentary Tournament of
8 Excellence is a very select competition composed of 54 of the
9 best and brightest debate programs in the nation; a team must
10 qualify for the national championship tournament by doing well
11 in various events throughout the year; and

12 WHEREAS, Directed by Dr. Todd Graham, Southern Illinois
13 University's debate team, composed of Kevin Calderwood, a
14 junior in political science from Chesterfield, Missouri, and
15 Kyle Dennis, a senior in economics from Blue Springs, Missouri,
16 bested 53 other teams to claim victory at this prestigious
17 tournament through the combination of hard work and intense
18 dedication; and

19 WHEREAS, The Southern Illinois University debate team also
20 entered teams in the secondary national year-end tournament,
21 the National Parliamentary Debate Association tournament,
22 which is held at the end of March at the United States Air

1 Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado and includes about
2 250 universities and colleges; the team made an excellent
3 showing there as well, with Mr. Calderwood winning the top spot
4 in the individual awards and solidifying his position as the
5 best debater in the country; Mr. Dennis took third place
6 overall in the individual awards; in addition, the team of
7 Katie Thomas, from Fort Collins, Colorado, and Adam Testerman,
8 from Springfield, Missouri, won fifth place as a team overall;
9 also participating in the debate program was Nicholas Deml of
10 La Crosse, Wisconsin; graduate students Benjamin Haas, from
11 Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Brian Norcross from San Diego,
12 California, assisted Dr. Graham with the team's preparation;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Southern Illinois University's proud tradition of
15 teaching, research, and public service has certainly born fruit
16 in the excellent debate program and exceptional students that
17 it has fostered; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 congratulate the members of the Southern Illinois University
21 debate team on the occasion of the team's victory in the
22 National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence and wish them
23 continued success and happiness in the future; and be it
24 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Dr. Todd Graham as a symbol of our esteem and
3 respect.