

2014 -- S 2981

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE 32 FRESHMEN AT NORTH SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
WHO WON THE RHODE ISLAND "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Cote, P Fogarty, Metts, and Satchell

Date Introduced: May 06, 2014

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, North Smithfield High School freshmen have taken the first-place slot in the
2 state's "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition for the eighth year in a
3 row; and

4 WHEREAS, On February 8, 2014, at West Warwick High School, a group of 32
5 freshmen from North Smithfield High School under the guidance of honors American
6 Government teacher, Mrs. Natalie O'Brien, competed against students from area high schools to
7 win the "We the People" Competition. Since September, the class had labored for countless hours
8 to study the Constitution, its founding principles, and its historical and modern applications; and

9 WHEREAS, The competition requires that students deliver a prepared statement on a
10 specific Constitutional topic and answer a series of questions asked by a panel of judges. The
11 students prepare for a wide variety of potential follow-up questions, are not allowed to use any
12 materials, and are not aware of the questions they will be asked until they are posed. The students
13 are required to develop the important skills of critical thinking and performing under pressure;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, As a result of their February 8th victory, the class traveled to Washington,
16 D.C., from April 4th through April 8th to represent Rhode Island in the National Finals; and

17 WHEREAS, "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Competition" is
18 sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and is a yearly competition held in Washington,
19 D.C., for American high school students. Teams are divided into six units, each comprised of

1 three or more members, and each team focuses on a particular area of Constitutional interest;
2 now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 hereby extends our congratulations to the honors program American Government teacher, Mrs.
5 Natalie O'Brien, and the following 32 freshmen students from North Smithfield High School:
6 Matthew Annunziata, Alex Bourque, MacKenzie Chartier, Lauren Cloutier, Amanda Connell,
7 Kevin Crowshaw, John DerBedrosian, Jacob DiSpirito, Jacob Forbes, Michaela Gamache,
8 Nicolas Hanoian, Alexander Helm, Rebecca Holliday, Faith Jacobson, Kristin Lafferty, Erica
9 Lemieux, Cullen MacDonald, Jacob Malo, Matthew Mandeville, Tommaso Marsella, Christopher
10 Matulaitis, Rachel Palazini, Abigail Palmer, Benjamin Palmer, Nolan Parent, Gennaro
11 Pasquariello, Jennifer Pasquariello, Morgan Perry, Kyle Peterson, Brooke Schobel, Andrew
12 Stevens and Miranda Zuba for winning the Rhode Island "We the People" Competition; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby congratulates this hard-working class on winning
15 three unit awards and earning second place at the National Invitational; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to honors American Government teacher Mrs.
18 Natalie O'Brien and the 32 freshmen of North Smithfield High School who represented Rhode
19 Island in the National "We the People" Competition.

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