

2016 -- H 8252

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**CONGRATULATING THE NORTH SMITHFIELD "WE THE PEOPLE" STUDENTS ON
WINNING THE 2016 STATEWIDE COMPETITION**

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Phillips, Morin, Casey, and Winfield

Date Introduced: May 25, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On February 6th of 2016, twenty-two students from North Smithfield High
2 School, under the expert guidance of their American Government honors class teacher and Social
3 Studies Department chair, Mrs. Natalie O'Brien, won the "We the People" statewide competition;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, As a result of taking the state title, the team earned the honor of representing
6 Rhode Island in the National Finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution
7 Competition" held on April 23rd and 24th in Washington, D.C.; and

8 WHEREAS, "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Competition" is
9 sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and is an annual competition held in Washington,
10 D.C., for American high school students. Teams are divided into six units, each comprised of
11 three or more members, and each team focuses on a particular area of Constitutional interest; and

12 WHEREAS, For the competition, members of the North Smithfield teams delivered
13 prepared statements on a specific Constitutional topic and answered a series of questions asked by
14 an esteemed panel of judges. Prior to the competition, the teams prepared for a wide variety of
15 potential follow-up questions, as they were not allowed to use any materials during the
16 competition, and were not forewarned of what questions would be posed until they were asked.
17 The format of the competition requires students to develop the important skills of critical thinking
18 and performing under pressure; and

19 WHEREAS, This year's North Smithfield team units were tremendously successful in

1 Washington, placing 27th out of the 54 best classes competing throughout the nation. In addition,
2 the school's Unit 6 Team finished 15th in the entire nation, earning a higher score than any
3 previously competing Rhode Island team; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
5 Providence Plantations hereby extends our congratulations for winning the 2016 Rhode Island
6 "We the People" Competition to the team's coach, Mrs. Natalie O'Brien, and the following
7 twenty-two students from North Smithfield High School: Jarrod Dube, Matthew Hetu, and Kailey
8 Savaria from Unit 1; Riley Crozier, Colby Girard, Jon Pelletier, and Kaitlyn Walsh from Unit 2;
9 Tim Duffy, Emma Grant, Liz Jordan, Adam Silvestri, and Vanessa Szulc from Unit 3; Jarrod Hill,
10 Elizabeth Jalette, and Eric Pugliese from Unit 4; Courtney Deslauriers, Morgan Kruzan, and
11 Chris Marsella from Unit 5; and Stuart Cenedella, George Malian, Rita Marcotte, and Aidan
12 Richer from Unit 6. We moreover wish all the team members much success in all their future
13 endeavors; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Natalie O'Brien.

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