

By: Rose

H.R. No. 1536

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Willa Debora Strickling Kramer, a senior at Dripping
2 Springs High School, scored yet another triumph in her stellar
3 academic career by taking the Class 4A individual championship in
4 literary criticism at the University Interscholastic League (UIL)
5 Academic State Meet in Austin on May 3, 2003; and

6 WHEREAS, This victory caps an exceptional history of UIL
7 achievement for Ms. Kramer, who took a sixth-place finish at the
8 state level in 2002 and top regional honors in both 2002 and 2003;
9 in carrying off the 2003 state title, she surpassed 1,024 other
10 competitors in this event from across the state; and

11 WHEREAS, The Dripping Springs team, a perennial contender
12 under the guidance of teacher/coach Janie Botkin, also made an
13 outstanding showing in 2003, placing first in its region and second
14 in state, besting 254 other groups; in addition to Ms. Kramer, team
15 members include Tyler Giles, a senior, and Jamie Stuart and Katie
16 Stoltze, both freshmen; and

17 WHEREAS, During the approximately 13 years that Ms. Botkin
18 has coached the Dripping Springs team, it has won regional
19 competition on several other occasions and taken the district
20 championship numerous times; moreover, in 10 of those years its
21 ranks have produced the individual district winner; and

22 WHEREAS, Preparation for the literary criticism event
23 includes study of a major play, an American or British poet, and a
24 novel; this year, contestants were assigned *Richard III*, Edna St.

1 Vincent Millay, and *The Gates of the Alamo*--the last a particularly
2 interesting choice for Ms. Kramer, who lives in the area where the
3 novel is being filmed; students must also learn the elements of
4 literary criticism and be able to apply them to other works; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition to being a UIL state champion, Ms.
6 Kramer is salutatorian of her class, a National Merit finalist, and
7 president of the film club; she will be enrolling in the fall at
8 Swarthmore College; and

9 WHEREAS, A gifted and creative young woman, Willa Kramer has
10 brought great credit to her school and compiled a record of
11 accomplishments that promises a bright and fulfilling future; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
14 Legislature hereby congratulate Willa Debora Strickling Kramer on
15 winning the individual Class 4A UIL state championship in literary
16 criticism and extend to her sincere best wishes for happiness and
17 success in all her future endeavors; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Ms. Kramer as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.