

By: Homer

H.C.R. No. 7

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Matthew Draeger, a student at Crockett Middle School
2 in Paris, Texas, won the individual community problem solving
3 championship, junior division, at the 2009 International
4 Conference of Future Problem Solving Program International, Inc.;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, An innovative program that seeks to stimulate
7 critical and creative thinking skills and to encourage young people
8 to develop and promote a positive vision for the future, FPSPI
9 involves more than 250,000 students annually from Australia,
10 Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russia,
11 Singapore, and the United States; the 35th International Conference
12 was held at Michigan State University from May 28 through May 31,
13 2009; and

14 WHEREAS, Matthew, whose grandfather passed away three years
15 ago, found at the time that there were no support groups in Paris
16 for children grieving the death of a family member; for his FPSPI
17 entry, he created Project HEAL (Helping Everybody Accept Life);
18 this multifaceted program included the writing of a book, *A Boy
19 Named Sam*, which was based on his own experiences, as well as the
20 creation of a support group that meets monthly, the inauguration of
21 a blog site, which allows students to share their feelings and to
22 communicate with one another, and the compiling of approximately a
23 dozen brochures, with titles such as "Summer Activities for
24 Grieving Children," "Relaxation," "Holiday Help," and "Keep Stress

1 Under Control"; and

2 WHEREAS, The first FPSPI student from Texas to win an
3 international title, Matthew now plans to expand his program to
4 deal with other facets of life that cause children emotional pain,
5 such as the divorce of their parents, or the incarceration of a
6 father or mother; he also intends to prepare a new version of his
7 book, an edition that will include perspectives on death that are
8 rooted in the Christian tradition; and

9 WHEREAS, In designing his project, Matthew was coached by
10 Debb Fleming, the Socrates instructor for elementary school
11 students in the Paris Independent School District; he instituted
12 his support group with the help of Crockett principal Angela
13 Chadwick and assistant principal/counselor Deborah Robbins, and he
14 maintains his blog with the assistance of school administrators;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Matthew Draeger has channeled the sadness and anger
17 he felt at the death of his grandfather into a program that will
18 help many other students who are mourning a similar loss, and the
19 compassion, creativity, and capacity for hard work that he has
20 demonstrated so abundantly have marked him as a young man of
21 exceptional promise; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas,
23 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Matthew Draeger on winning
24 the individual community problem solving championship at the 2009
25 International Conference of Future Problem Solving Program
26 International and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
27 success in all his endeavors; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Matthew Draeger as an expression of high regard by the
3 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.