

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 2531

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Philip Hayes of Lindale received a \$150,000  
2 scholarship by winning the History Whiz Kids Debate at the National  
3 Constitution Center in Philadelphia in August 2008; and

4 WHEREAS, This first annual national debate competition was  
5 sponsored by Now Debate This, an online educational program  
6 dedicated to involving high school students in creatively exploring  
7 American history and civics and the way they affect contemporary  
8 issues; and

9 WHEREAS, Now a senior at Lindale High School, Mr. Hayes was  
10 one of the competition's 16 semifinalists, chosen from more than  
11 200 contestants who submitted videos on YouTube; and

12 WHEREAS, The topic for the debate asked whether George  
13 Washington or Abraham Lincoln was the better president; arguing on  
14 behalf on George Washington, Mr. Hayes was chosen as the winner by  
15 the audience at the National Constitution Center and by viewers  
16 casting their votes online; his victory was announced and his  
17 scholarship presented to him the day after the debate on the *Fox and*  
18 *Friends* television show; and

19 WHEREAS, The son of Ron and Janet Hayes, Mr. Hayes has been  
20 active throughout his high school years as a member of the Speech  
21 and Debate Club, the school band, and the LHS Young Republicans  
22 Club; he is also president of the Lindale Library Teen Advisory  
23 Board and an Eagle Scout; and

24 WHEREAS, This notable young Texan's skills as a speaker and

1 debater have previously been recognized with a third place win in  
2 the University Interscholastic League 2008 Lincoln-Douglas Debate  
3 and a second place win in the National Sons of the American  
4 Revolution Oratory Contest, and he was invited to address the  
5 Republican National Convention in St. Paul in September 2008; in  
6 the spring of 2009, Mr. Hayes earned the distinction of being  
7 elected to the city council of Hideaway at the age of 18, and he was  
8 sworn into office on May 12; and

9 WHEREAS, Philip Hayes is an outstanding orator whose  
10 knowledge of history and ability to communicate effectively have  
11 started him firmly on his path to success; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
13 Legislature hereby congratulate Philip Hayes on winning the History  
14 Whiz Kids Debate in 2008 and extend to him sincere best wishes for  
15 continued success and happiness; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for Mr. Hayes as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
18 House of Representatives.