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By:  Clardy H.R. No. 1561

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Stephen F. Austin State University women's bowling team proved itself the finest in the nation by winning the title at the 2019 National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship, which took place April 11-13 in Wickliffe, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, SFA punched its ticket to the event with a win against Prairie View A&M University on April 5 in Houston; after joining the other seven qualifying teams in Wickliffe, the Ladyjacks opened championship week with a 2-1 win over fourth-seeded Sam Houston State University; the team then edged second-seeded McKendree University by just two pins in a decisive final game of a best-of-seven Baker match competition; SFA went on to overpower the squad from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to advance to its third NCAA championship match in the program's 10-year history; and

WHEREAS, With the title on the line, the Ladyjacks squared off against the No. 1-ranked defending champions from Vanderbilt University; after dropping game one, the SFA bowlers caught fire and rolled their way to four consecutive game victories to record a 4-1 championship triumph; the win earned the team its second national bowling title in the past four years, and the Ladyjacks received an additional honor when they were voted as the top squad in the nation by the National Tenpin Coaches Association; and

WHEREAS, Ably led by head coach Amber Lemke, SFA's five-bowler lineup included seniors Paige Beeney and Dakotah Hazlewood, sophomores Sarah Gill and Dakota Faichnie, and freshman Carlene Beyer; Ms. Beeney was named an NTCA All-American and the 2019 NCAA Bowling Championship MVP, while Ms. Hazlewood also earned the NTCA All-American designation as well as NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team honors; furthermore, Ms. Beyer was SFA's top individual bowler in the traditional team matches at the NCAA championship, and Ms. Gill went on to compete for an individual national title at the 2019 United States Bowling Congress Intercollegiate Singles Championships; the Ladyjacks also received valuable contributions throughout the season from the other members of the roster: Megan Eaglehouse, Annie Leihardt, Sarah Voiers, and Amber Whitcomb, as well as volunteer assistant Steve Lemke; and

WHEREAS, Winning a national championship represents the culmination of countless hours of hard work and an unwavering commitment to excellence, and the members of the Ladyjacks bowling team will treasure the memory of this accomplishment for the rest of their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Stephen F. Austin State University bowling team on winning the title at the 2019 National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship and extend to the team's players, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the team as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.