

By: Hinojosa

H.R. No. 1126

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Austin speech team  
2 continued its tradition of excellence by winning the team  
3 sweepstakes championship at the 2023 American Forensic Association  
4 National Speech Tournament; and

5 WHEREAS, Competing from April 1 through 3 in Santa Ana,  
6 California, UT triumphed over 56 other universities to collect its  
7 second consecutive AFA national crown and the ninth in program  
8 history; the Longhorns were sparked by the individual championship  
9 performances of Valeria Najera in communication analysis, Kaylee  
10 Frazier in dramatic interpretation, and Patrick Pham in prose  
11 interpretation; and

12 WHEREAS, Additionally, five members of the UT squad achieved  
13 top-six showings; advancing to the finals were René Otero in duo  
14 interpretation, extemporaneous speaking, and impromptu speaking,  
15 Fernando Cereceres in program oral interpretation and prose  
16 interpretation, Kai Solis in duo interpretation, Jennifer Gonzalez  
17 in poetry interpretation, and Kyle Ahern in prose interpretation;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Housed in the Department of Communication Studies  
20 within the Moody College of Communication, the UT speech program is  
21 directed by professor Martin "Randy" Cox; coaches Eva Margarita,  
22 Clay Parker, Evan Ortiz, Karon Bowers, Katayoun Khalilian, and Erin  
23 Swearingen also provide valuable support; and

24 WHEREAS, Demonstrating remarkable skill and determination,

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1 the members of the UT speech team have once again earned the mantle  
2 of national champion, and they may indeed reflect with pride on a  
3 job well done; now, therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
5 Legislature hereby congratulate The University of Texas speech team  
6 on winning the team sweepstakes championship at the 2023 American  
7 Forensic Association National Speech Tournament and extend to the  
8 competitors and coaches sincere best wishes for continued success;  
9 and, be it further

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