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,

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 Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature

5 hereby congratulate The University of Texas speech team on winning

6 the team sweepstakes championship at the 2023 American Forensic

7 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 Senate.