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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 197

Offered March 3, 2014

*Commending Cave Spring High School debate team.*

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Patrons—Smith and Edwards

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WHEREAS, the Cave Spring High School debate team from Roanoke competed in the school's first Virginia High School League Group AA state debate championship in June 2013; and

WHEREAS, completing one of the best seasons in school history, the Cave Spring High School (CSHS) team exhibited enthusiasm and intelligence as they competed in both Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum debates throughout the season; and

WHEREAS, the Public Forum debate is a structured partner debate on a variety of relevant and real-world topics; and

WHEREAS, based on debates held between then presidential candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas in 1860, the Lincoln Douglas style is an individual debate focused on moral and philosophical matters; and

WHEREAS, in the Lincoln Douglas debate, CSHS senior and team captain Colleen Truskey advanced to the 100th Virginia High School League (VHSL) State Debate Competition, where she finished 3rd overall; and

WHEREAS, during an impressive four-year career at CSHS, Colleen Truskey achieved 71 wins and over 500 career points, earning her the "Degree of Special Distinction" from the National Forensics League; and

WHEREAS, in the Public Forum debate, the CSHS team of Lydia Hoepfner, awarded a "Degree of Distinction" with 252 career points, and Rebekah Wellons, awarded a "Degree of Excellence" with 201 career points, finished first in the VHSL State Debate Competition, earning CSHS its first state win in debate; and

WHEREAS, the other members of the CSHS debate team, Michael Murphy and Marvi Ali, contributed to a successful season, with Marvi Ali placing 5th at Regionals and serving as an alternate in the state championship; and

WHEREAS, coached by Robert Powers, the CSHS debate team finished 3rd in the overall debate championship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Cave Spring High School debate team on its outstanding performance in the 2013 Virginia High School League Group AA state debate championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Robert Powers, the coach of the Cave Spring High School debate team, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the team's performance this season.

INTRODUCED

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