

## 2017 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 369

*Commending the Salem High School forensics team.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 10, 2017

WHEREAS, the Salem High School forensics team extended its decade of dominance in statewide speaking competition by winning the Virginia High School League Group 4A state championship for the 11th year in a row in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Salem High School forensics team won first place in five individual competitions to defend its state title over John Handley High School, which placed second in the Group 4A division; and

WHEREAS, Salem High School placed first in the categories of extemporaneous speaking, impromptu, poetry interpretation, humorous dramatic interpretation, and serious duo interpretation; and

WHEREAS, members of the Salem High School forensics team who won first or second in their individual categories at the 2016 state championship were: Jack Beedle, Ben Lewis, Emma Studtmann, Caleb Turner, AnnElese Galleo, Ben Kennedy, Sami Hoyer, Adalyn Eller, Sydney Pettit, Alayna Johnson, Phoebe Stevens, and Ashby Garst; and

WHEREAS, senior Ben Lewis set a personal record by winning the impromptu speaking category, adding to his previous first-place awards in storytelling, humorous interpretation, and poetry interpretation; only one other student has won first place in four separate events since the state tournament began over 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Salem High School has had 62 individual state champions in forensics categories since 2004, and if the team repeats as state champions in 2017, the school will be that much closer to beating the current record of winning 15 state titles in a row; and

WHEREAS, the victory is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all of the Salem High School forensics team members and the dogged leadership of coach Mark Ingerson, who inspires his speakers to strive for excellence year after year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Salem High School forensics team hereby be commended for winning its 11th consecutive Virginia High School League Group 4A state championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mark Ingerson, Salem High School forensics team coach, as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the team's continued excellence in state forensics competition.

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