## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 291**

Commending the Marion Intermediate School Odyssey of the Mind team.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 2, 1996 Agreed to by the Senate, February 8, 1996

WHEREAS, the annual Odyssey of the Mind competition, which began in 1978, now involves over one million students nationwide; and

WHEREAS, at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held in 1995 in Knoxville, Tennessee, over 8,000 students entered the creative problem-solving competition designed to teach teamwork, reward risk and initiative, and encourage participants to look for alternative solutions to problems; and

WHEREAS, Smyth County was the only school division in Virginia to send three teams to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, two from Chilhowie Elementary School and one from Marion Intermediate School; and

WHEREAS, Marion Intermediate School's "The Mail Must Go Through" team, which won the state title in Norfolk in April, placed a remarkable second at the World Finals; and

WHEREAS, the Marion team, which competed in Division II, for sixth graders, was coached by Dr. Alice McDowell, Dr. Jim McDowell, Elizabeth Gailliot, and Linda Kiser; and

WHEREAS, of the Marion team members, Brett Kiser, Alec Larkin, Susan McDowell, Nathan Staley, Chris Teigue, and Andrew Voglewede, three were veterans of the 1994 Marion team that placed fifth in the World Finals; and

WHEREAS, "The Mail Must Go Through" team brilliantly represented Marion Intermediate School, the Smyth County Public Schools, and the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the Marion Intermediate School Odyssey of the Mind team for its superlative performance at the World Finals; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to William Graybeal, principal of Marion Intermediate School, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the outstanding performance of the students from Smyth County.