

1 HR183
2 218890-1
3 By Representative Faulkner
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 17-MAR-22

CONGRATULATING THE SAMFORD UNIVERSITY DEBATE TEAM
FOR ITS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

WHEREAS, a team from the Samford University debate program won the honor of top novice team in the nation with their victory at the American Debate Association National Championship at Emory University held March 5 through 7, 2022; in addition to being the first time a team from Samford University has been named the top national novice debate team, this marks the first time that any team from the State of Alabama has won this award; and

WHEREAS, the team was comprised of debaters Abi McKibben and Grace Blackwell and was coached by Director of Debate Ryan Galloway and Assistant Director Lee Quinn; and

WHEREAS, in order to secure victory, Samford's two novice debaters defeated seven schools prior to a final round against Boston College; McKibben and Blackwell also won the Front Royal Cup for the American Debate Association, awarded to the first-year team with the best record in the regular season; and

1 WHEREAS, the team also garnered individual
2 accolades; Blackwell was named national Novice of the Year; at
3 regional championships earlier in the season, Blackwell was
4 honored with the regional Novice of the Year award; McKibben
5 and Blackwell are notably one of the few all-female teams to
6 clinch a national victory in a sport historically dominated by
7 males; and

8 WHEREAS, the combination of team success and
9 individual accolades for the champion debate team, as well as
10 the myriad other honors bestowed upon other members of the
11 Samford debate program, is a testament to the hard work and
12 dedication of those debaters and their coaches, as well as the
13 strong support offered by their home institution, Samford
14 University; and

15 WHEREAS, although the universities of this state are
16 known for winning national championships in athletic
17 competitions, this victory by the Samford University novice
18 debate team clearly demonstrates that Alabama also produces
19 championship-caliber talent in academics; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
21 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Samford University debate
22 team of Abi McKibben and Grace Blackwell are hereby
23 congratulated for their impressive national championship, and
24 are thanked for representing the State of Alabama and its
25 institutions of higher education.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
27 resolution be presented to Abi McKibben and Grace Blackwell,

1 as well as to Sanford University Director of Debate Ryan
2 Galloway and Assistant Director Lee Quinn, as a token of our
3 thanks and high esteem.