

April 13, 1992 LR 435, 437

ASSISTANT CLERK: 21 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the resolution.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LR 435 is adopted. LR 437.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, LR 437 was introduced by Senators Withem, Robak, Robinson and Dierks. It is found in the Journal on page 2131.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Chair, members of the body, this resolution honors the Nebraska Geography Bee and the winners of it. The Geography Bee is a relatively new program, unlike spelling bees, although the format is the same. The purpose of it is to enhance the image of geography education as in a number of areas of elementary-secondary academics. We've seen reports in recent years bemoaning the low level of geographic literacy of young people. The Geography Bee is a program sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the National Geographic World and Amtrak. This is, I forget, the third or the fourth year which they have done this program. Dr. Charles Gildersleeve of the University of Nebraska of Omaha is the coordinator. My involvement in it this year was somewhat peripheral. They asked me to be the moderator, the person asking the questions and I was so taken by the program and by the knowledge that these young people have of geography that I did introduce this resolution. It honors the winners of the program and we have cosponsors of...from the districts. Senator Robinson's constituent, Matt Coffey, was the winner for second year in a row and he will be competing in national competition. Senator Robak's constituent, Jesse Whidden, Jesse is a fourth grader and he gave every one of these seventh and eight graders a real run for their money and did an excellent job. Third place finish here was Julia Anson from Senator Dierks' district. And we also in this resolution honor the 100 finalists that came to UNO two or three weeks ago to participate in this program. I would urge you to support this resolution.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam Speaker, members of the body, I'd urge the body to vote approval of this resolution and thank Senator Withem for bringing this to the body. I've known Matt Coffey's