

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 185

BY SENATOR GATTI

A RESOLUTION

To commend Benton Middle School for earning the first-ever national championship representing Louisiana in the 2016 National Archery in Schools Program national tournament.

WHEREAS, the students of Benton Middle School in Benton, Louisiana, participated in the 2016 National Archery in Schools Program national tournament in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 12 through 14, where two hundred six middle school teams from all over the country competed for the first time in this national event; and

WHEREAS, Benton Middle School's team was led by eighth graders Aidan Haire, who finished tenth in the boys middle school division, and Abbie Rutledge, who finished fifteenth in the girls middle school division; and

WHEREAS, the middle school team scored a total of thirty-four hundred four points winning the championship by a slim margin of only eight points over Pulaski Northern Middle School of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the 2015-2016 Benton Middle School archery team members are: Trip Armer, Lauren Bayne, Lake Bradford, Emma Bunch, Logan Cook, Emily Croall, Landon Crouch, Riley Daniels, Dalton Diel, Brady Duncan, Josh Farris, Kelton Fowler, Kendall Fowler, Tucker Gibbs, Aden Gilcrease, Aidan Haire, Averie Halverston, Nathan Hardin, Alisha Huffman, Haley Huffman, Conrad Johnson, Emory Kiser, Colby Leeper, Amber Long, Kaitlyn Masters, Kaitlyn Misenheimer, Anna Robins, Abbie Rutledge, Tahlor Walker, and Trey Winkler, all under the direction of coaches Terrie Streetman and Jessica Benoit; and

WHEREAS, the Benton Middle School team claimed a world title at last year's world tournament, a year before the national tournament was instituted, and the team is eligible to take part in the National Archery in Schools Program World Tournament in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on June 24 through 26, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the archery team has been training, practicing, and participating in meets throughout the school year with the goal of competing and winning the first-ever national archery title; and

WHEREAS, nearly two hundred Louisiana student archers from fourteen schools participated in the state tournament in March, and nearly thirteen thousand students from across the nation competed for a chance to represent their states at the national tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Benton Middle School archery team participates in Archery in Louisiana Schools, a program of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources that offers grants to purchase a portion of the equipment necessary for schools to participate in the National Archery in Schools Program curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the National Archery in Schools Program is a target archery program designed to achieve specific education and conservation purposes, it is designed to be taught during the school day in the school gymnasium, and is highly standardized to maintain archery's record of exceptional safety; and

WHEREAS, the National Archery in Schools Program for students in grades four through twelve has two specific goals, first to improve student motivation, behavior, attendance, and focus in relation to education while seeking to encourage students to spend more time in the outdoors and to learn outdoor skills that will inspire them to spend more time with wild things in wild places.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Benton Middle School for earning the first-ever national championship representing Louisiana in the 2016 National Archery in Schools Program national tournament.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Benton Middle School principal, Dr. Kyle Machen.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE