

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 142

BY SENATOR GATTI

A RESOLUTION

To commend Benton Elementary School on winning the 2017 National Archery in Schools Program national tournament and being named national elementary school champion.

WHEREAS, the elementary school tournament of the National Archery in Schools Program was held in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 11 through 13, 2017; and

WHEREAS, this annual tournament involves two types of competition, 3-D and bull's-eye, and this year, after winning the national 3-D championship last year, the students of Benton Elementary put together a championship performance overall; and

WHEREAS, the Benton Elementary team competed against one hundred seventy-nine other schools from around the country and is part of a program in which they, along with other Louisiana schools, participate in the Archery in Schools Program, administered by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, at the national tournament in Louisville, outstanding performances included Maddie Lowry, who placed fourth in the 3-D division in a competitive field of five hundred six elementary girl archers and Hannah McKenzie placed third in the bull's-eye division of elementary girls, competing against just over nineteen hundred elementary girl archers; and

WHEREAS, these outstanding performances are totaled with the scores of other teammates and the team with the highest point total is awarded the championship; and

WHEREAS, the archery team has been training, practicing, and participating in meets throughout the year, including the state tournament, and on to the national tournament; and

WHEREAS, with Beth Duncan and Autry Lowry serving as coaches, the Benton Elementary Archery in Schools Program team members are third graders Trey Orms, Mason Hicks, Emerson Fite, Anna Young, Ayden Dowdall, fourth graders Hannah McKenzie, Tyler Pope, Landon Burrows, Jayden Young, Cavitt Hilburn, Jacob Gallagher, Grant Bunch and fifth graders Corrigan Jayroe, Madeline (Maddie) Lowry, Eden Old, Karmen Harrison, Avery Coe, Kylie Jo Maggio, Cherish Young, Hayden Viola, Baylee Craft, Haley Hancock, Lillybeth Stephens, Kyndal Diel, and Rylee VanBuskirk; and

WHEREAS, the Benton Elementary archery team scored well in the state meet, in which they finished first in the bull's-eye division and first in the 3-D division, in addition to several outstanding individual performances including Eden Old first place and Karmen Harrison third in the girls bull's-eye division and Tyler Pope third for boy archers and Eden Old first among the girl archers and Tyler Pope first among boy archers in each of their respective 3-D division; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation supports the Archery in Schools Program, such as the one at Benton Elementary School, and it offers grants to purchase a portion of the equipment necessary for schools to participate in the archery curriculum and competitions; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the program is to promote the teaching of target archery as a part of the in-school curriculum in order to improve educational performance of students and to encourage their participation in target sports; and

WHEREAS, the National Archery in Schools Program has two specific goals, the first is to improve student motivation, behavior, attendance, and focus in relation to education, and the second, to encourage students to spend more time in the outdoors while learning outdoor skills that will inspire them to spend more time with wild animals in wild places; and

WHEREAS, as the state that considers itself the "sportsman's paradise", Louisiana has deep roots in the leisure pursuits of hunting and fishing and it is essential to maintaining that aspect of Louisiana culture to pass that passion for outdoor sports on to a generation that is considerably more urban than previous generations and to teach the lifetime skills of participation in target sports, hoping to raise new generations with a love of sporting

activities in general; and

WHEREAS, having won the 3-D archery division championship in 2016, the Benton Elementary team set a goal of winning the overall national championship, and that goal drove the students to practice hard and improve their skills and, with the tutelage of coaches Lowry and Duncan, the students were able to realize that goal of becoming the 2017 National Archery in Schools Program elementary school champion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Benton Elementary School on winning the 2017 National Archery in Schools Program national tournament and being named elementary champion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to coaches Beth Duncan and Autry Lowry of Benton Elementary School.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE