

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1740

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the Olathe Northwest High School Raven Dance Team for winning the 2019 National Dance Alliance High School National Championship.

WHEREAS, On February 24, 2019, the Olathe Northwest High School Raven Dance Team was named Grand National Champions at the National Dance Alliance (NDA) High School Nationals held in Orlando, Florida. At the competition, the team competed against some of the most talented high school dance teams from across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, The team, for the first time in NDA National Championship history, made a clean sweep of the awards and brought home the gold in Team Performance, Pom, and Jazz. The team was crowned Grand National Champions for earning the highest average score of the competition; and

WHEREAS, With these new wins, the Raven Dance Team now has 15 National Championship titles; and

WHEREAS, The team's jazz performance was in honor of, and a beautiful tribute to, their classmate, Landon Daniel, who was killed in a tragic car accident last summer; and

WHEREAS, The Raven Dance Team consists of 27 varsity members and an active junior varsity team, led by Head Coach Shannon Summers and Assistant Coaches Alison Krumbiegel and McKenzi Mispagel. The dedicated and talented young dancers strive to represent Olathe Northwest High School in a positive and spirited manner; and

WHEREAS, Varsity members perform at various school and community events and practice five days a week, for up to two hours per day, to prepare for games and other performances; and

WHEREAS, During football season, the team doubles as a color guard, performing at halftime with the band. In addition to their tremendous dance skills, they have received top scores and awards for their performances as a color guard; and

WHEREAS, Each January, the varsity team competes in two regional competitions against other Midwest high school dance teams in various categories, including jazz, hip-hop, team performance, lyrical, novelty, and pom, in order to earn a spot at the national competition held in late February; and

WHEREAS, Members of the varsity team are: Mia Barkyoumb, Avery Boland, Maleah Boyd, Samantha Clark, Ava Clayton, Mady Cole, Kennedi Dyro, Kirstyn Gaupp, Bailey Haines, Megan Kiekbusch, Maddie Lowen, Claire Maddox, Brooke Mason, Sydney Morse, Alex Privat, Grace Rasmussen, Rose Rasmussen, Kaitlyn Rose, Maddy Samuelson, Lauren Sanford, Haley Scalabrin, Ellie Smajda, Layne Steffen, Emma Thelen, Olivia Thomas, Carley Uhl and Olivia Whitenack; and

WHEREAS, The junior varsity team was established in 2010, and, similar to the varsity team, performs special guest routines at various school and community events and practices four days per week, for up to two hours per day. The junior varsity team also competes in two regional competitions each January; and

WHEREAS, To prepare for their regional and national competitions, the teams sacrifice part of their winter break and weekends for extra practice. These teams work hard each year to maintain their tradition of success; and

WHEREAS, The team members' character, sportsmanship, and love shine through on the stage as much as their technical execution and synchronization. Their experience on the team teaches powerful life lessons of hard work, dedication, and confidence: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend the Olathe Northwest High School Raven Dance Team, their coaches, parents and family members, administrators, faculty, and Olathe Northwest for the team's National Championship title win, and we wish them continued success; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send 30 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Lynn.

Senate Resolution No. 1740 was sponsored by Senator Julia Lynn.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*