

2018 -- H 8308

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**CONGRATULATING LAURA MURPHY OF EAST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL FOR
BEING NAMED A 2017 NATIONAL FINALIST FOR THE WENDY'S HIGH SCHOOL
HEISMAN AWARD**

Introduced By: Representatives Giarrusso, Kennedy, Diaz, Barros, and Edwards

Date Introduced: June 12, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Wendy's High School Heisman Award was created in 1994 to honor
2 America's high school student-athletes. Each fall, the program recognizes the most talented high
3 school male and female seniors for their excellence in academics, athletics, and community
4 involvement. Each school can nominate one male and one female student-athlete. The program
5 receives approximately 1.4 million applicants from 30,000 high schools. This field is narrowed to
6 1,020 State Finalists, ten male and ten females per state plus the District of Columbia, and then
7 the field is further narrowed to 102 state winners, one male and one female from each state plus
8 the District of Columbia. Finally, in Mid-November, a panel of judges selects ten National
9 Finalists; and

10 WHEREAS, Laura Murphy, a Senior at East Greenwich High School, is a standout
11 athlete who has accomplished much, and overcome much, in the sport of Track & Field. She is a
12 four-time Rhode Island State Track Champion in the 400 meter race, the 4 x 100 relay, the 4 x
13 200 relay, and the 4 x 400 relay. She is a two-time Freshman Indoor State Track Champion in the
14 55 meter race and the 300 meter race, a three time Freshman Outdoor State Track Champion in
15 the 100 meter race, 200 meter race and the 400 meter race. She also holds two school records in
16 the 4 x 100 relay and the 4 x 200 relay, was named the MVP of the Indoor Track Team, was a
17 competitor at the New Balance National Indoor event in the 60 meter dash, and was a competitor
18 at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor event in the 100 meter race, 400 meter race and the long
19 jump; and

1 WHEREAS, Laura Murphy has accomplished so much athletically and academically
2 despite facing serious injuries that imperiled her athletic career and her ability to perform in the
3 classroom. She tore a hamstring in her sophomore year and was warned by her surgeon that
4 recovery would take nine months. Instead, she returned to competing in five months and regained
5 her championship form. In her Junior year, she was diagnosed with acute vocal cord paralysis and
6 received a poor prognosis for recovery. Although she lost her voice and was unable to talk in
7 class or communicate verbally with anyone, she persevered and used writing and artwork to make
8 her "voice" heard. Once again she overcame the odds, with her voice returning in time for her to
9 sing at the spring talent show; and

10 WHEREAS, Laura is an outstanding student who excels in both the classroom and in her
11 community. Some of her academic achievements including being a National Merit Semifinalist,
12 receiving the Harvard Book Award, the Pell Medal for Excellence in U.S. History and the AP
13 Scholar Award, and being named to the National Honor Society. She has also received the Rhode
14 Island Scholar Athlete Award, the Celebrating Art Award, and was named All-State Chorus
15 Soprano; and

16 WHEREAS, Laura also uses her considerable talents to make her school and the
17 community better places in which to attend and live. She serves on the Student Council, is the
18 Founder and President of the Spark Notes A Cappella Club, is the Editor-In-Chief of the
19 Spectrum, the school paper, is the President of the Interact Community Service Group, is the
20 Founder of the East Greenwich High School Heart-Safe School Initiative, and is a St. Elizabeth's
21 Nursing Home Volunteer; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
23 Providence Plantations congratulates East Greenwich High School Senior Laura Murphy for
24 being named a 2017 National Finalist for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award. We
25 furthermore wish her continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Laura Murphy.

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