

No. R-158. House concurrent resolution congratulating Meigan Clark on winning the 2011 Vermont state spelling bee.

(H.C.R.111)

Offered by: Representative Ralston of Middlebury and Representative Nuovo of Middlebury

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Giard

Whereas, the Vermont state spelling bee affords youngsters the opportunity to test their spelling skills against those of their peers from across the state, and

Whereas, participants prepare for this academic challenge by devoting many hours to expanding their spelling knowledge, and

Whereas, any history of the Vermont state spelling bee will duly record that the 2011 version of this annual event set a record for the number of rounds required to determine a winner, and

Whereas, the winner, Meigan Clark, is a studious and talented sixth-grader at the Mary Hogan School in Middlebury for whom the word “perseverance” has become an accurate description, and

Whereas, after 18 demanding rounds of competition, five stalwart spellers remained in contention, and

Whereas, for repeated rounds thereafter, these five students continued to demonstrate a lexicographer’s knowledge of the English language, correctly spelling each word, even those words derived from the Dutch, Afrikaans, and Hawaiian languages, and

Whereas, beginning in the 26th round, the pronouncer posed a new challenge for the contestants by requiring them to spell words not included in

the advance study guide, and three of the five remaining students were quickly retired from the competition, and

Whereas, the two remaining contestants continued into the 31st round until Meigan Clark correctly spelled the word “scurrilous” and was crowned the 2011 winner of the Vermont state spelling bee, and

Whereas, Meigan Clark’s effective preparation, for which her father served as the word pronouncer, included lining up her dolls, stuffed animals, and trolls to represent the competitors while she spelled the words on their behalf, and

Whereas, this well-deserved victory qualifies Meigan Clark to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee to be held in May in Washington, D.C., now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Meigan Clark on winning the 2011 Vermont state spelling bee, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Meigan Clark.