

No. R-221. House concurrent resolution congratulating Claude Mumbere on winning the 2011 Vermont Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest.

(H.C.R.172)

Offered by: Representatives Lorber of Burlington, Aswad of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Bissonnette of Winooski, Clarkson of Woodstock, Donovan of Burlington, Larson of Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Weston of Burlington, Wizowaty of Burlington and Wright of Burlington

Whereas, in order to encourage the nation's youth to study great poetry through memorization and recitation, the Vermont Arts Council, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation, sponsors the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest, and

Whereas, the 2011 Vermont semifinals and finals occurred at the Barre Opera House on March 16, 2011 with 31 Vermont high schools represented, and

Whereas, in 2011, Burlington High School (BHS) English teachers Scott Stone, Benjamin Roesch, and Erika Lowe introduced this poetry competition at their school, and

Whereas, Claude Mumbere, a Democratic Republic of the Congo native, moved to the United States in 2005 with his mother and two sisters and settled in Vermont just two years ago, and

Whereas, his first language is French, with English being just one of his four other languages, and

Whereas, Claude Mumbere was the BHS champion and advanced to the state competition, and

Whereas, Claude Mumbere chose *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night* by Dylan Thomas and *I'm a Fool to Love You* by Cornelius Eady as his first two poems in the Vermont semifinals, and

Whereas, having received a top regional semifinal score, Claude moved on to the state finals with 11 other competitors, and

Whereas, Claude recited for a new set of final-round judges, and they were so impressed that he advanced with three other competitors to recite his third and final poem, *The Passionate Shepherd To His Love* by Christopher Marlowe, and

Whereas, having recited beautifully and passionately, Claude won the state title of Vermont Poetry Out Loud Champion and was awarded a \$200.00 prize, a \$500.00 allowance for BHS to purchase poetry books, and an all-expenses-paid trip for an adult chaperone and himself to represent Vermont in Washington, D.C. at the national finals to be held on April 29, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Claude Mumbere on winning the 2011 Vermont Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest and wishes him success at the national finals, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Claude Mumbere and to the Burlington High School English department.