

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1854

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the Topeka High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC drill team.

WHEREAS, The Topeka High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC drill team won the team championship at the 2001 National High School Drill Team competition held in Daytona Beach, Florida. A total of 77 teams from 25 states, Puerto Rico and Japan competed; and

WHEREAS, This was the fourth year for the Topeka High drill team to compete at the national level; they were runners-up last year. Topeka High competed in both divisions—armed and unarmed; they came home with six trophies: Fifth in unarmed inspection, fourth in armed color guard, fourth in armed regulation, first in armed inspection, first in armed exhibition plus the national championship trophy in the armed division; and

WHEREAS, There were also several outstanding individual winners in the Armed and Unarmed Knock Out Competition. Cadet/Lt. Colonel Elizabeth Colpitts, a senior, placed first out of a field of 1,700 cadets in the Armed Division. In the Unarmed Division, out of a field of 2,500 cadets—Cadet/Corporal Rocco Gutierrez, a freshman, placed third; Cadet/Major Courtney Lolley, a senior, placed second; and Cadet/Corporal Michael Colpitts, a sophomore, placed first. It was the first time that a brother and sister have ever won both divisions and the first time three cadets from the same school have placed in the top three in one division; and

WHEREAS, Forty-two drill team members competed at the national meet. They were directed by Topeka High School Marine ROTC Instructor Curt Kelley. The team returned home Sunday, April 29, 2001, to be welcomed by a large group of exuberant fans and supporters upon the team's arrival at Topeka High School; and

WHEREAS, Winning the national championship was the result of hours and hours of practice and drilling as a team, from the dedication and desire of the individual members, from the skill and devotion of their drill superiors and the support and encouragement of parents, friends and school administrators; and all deserve recognition for this achievement: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend the Topeka High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC Drill Team for winning the 2001 National High School Drill Team Competition; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Dr. Robert McFrazier, Superintendent, USD 501, and Ron Browning, both at 624 SW 24th St., Topeka, Kansas 66606; plus Dr. Patricia Pressman, Principal, and Major Bob Funk and Topeka High School Instructor Curt Kelley, Marine Corps Junior ROTC unit; and Captain Dan Kalson, Junior ROTC Project Officer, 9th Marine Corps District, all at 800 SW 10th St., Topeka, Kansas 66612-1687.

Senate Resolution No. 1854 was sponsored by Senators Jackson, Hensley and Jenkins.

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.*