

## House Resolution 1481

By: Representatives Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>, and Neal of the 79<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Cedartown High School Debate Team for winning the  
2 2026 Parliamentary Debate World Competition; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia House of Representatives is proud to recognize exceptional  
4 students whose academic achievement, leadership, and dedication bring honor to their  
5 schools, communities, and the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Cedartown High School, located in Polk County within House District 16, has  
7 demonstrated a longstanding commitment to academic excellence and student leadership; and

8 WHEREAS, the Cedartown High School Debate Team represented the United States of  
9 America in the 2026 Parliamentary Debate World Competition held in Kumagaya City,  
10 Saitama Prefecture, Japan, from February 6 through February 8, 2026; and

11 WHEREAS, the competition included ten distinguished teams representing six countries:  
12 Japan, Hungary, Mongolia, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, competing against elite international teams, Armando Penaloza, Anna Vainrib,  
14 and Ande Kate Roper demonstrated exceptional research, analytical reasoning, persuasive  
15 advocacy, and teamwork; and

16 WHEREAS, the Cedartown High School Debate Team achieved a perfect record of six wins  
17 and zero losses, advancing undefeated through all rounds of competition; and

18 WHEREAS, on February 8, 2026, the team prevailed in the championship finals against  
19 Hungary to earn First Place Overall, bringing international distinction and honor to  
20 Cedartown High School, the Polk School District, Polk County, House District 16, and the  
21 entire State of Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, this historic accomplishment reflects not only individual excellence but also the  
23 strength of public education and community support within Polk County; and

24 WHEREAS, this remarkable achievement was guided by the dedicated mentorship and  
25 leadership of Mrs. Jennifer Cupp, advisor and coach, whose commitment to academic  
26 excellence and student development was instrumental in securing this world championship;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the encouragement, sacrifice, and unwavering support of the families of these  
29 students played a vital role in this achievement and deserve recognition and gratitude from  
30 this body.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body commend and congratulate the Cedartown High School Debate  
33 Team—Armando Penaloza, Anna Vainrib, and Ande Kate Roper—and their advisor, Mrs.

34 Jennifer Cupp, upon winning First Place Overall at the 2026 Parliamentary Debate World  
35 Competition.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body extend their gratitude to the  
37 families of these students in honor of their steadfast support, encouragement, and  
38 commitment to excellence, all of which contributed to this distinguished accomplishment.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
41 Cedartown High School, the Polk School District, the members of the team, their coach, and  
42 their families.