

By: Senator(s) Chassaniol, Younger, Barnett, To: Rules
Dearing, Jackson (32nd), McMahan

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 555

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 17-YEAR-OLD MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATH AND SCIENCE STUDENT SYDNEY
3 MATRISCIANO OF WINONA, MISSISSIPPI, FOR WINNING THE 2017 "YOUNG
4 ORATOR PRIZE" AT THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIADA OF SPOKEN RUSSIAN IN
5 MOSCOW."

6 WHEREAS, a 17-year-old student at the Mississippi School for
7 Mathematics and Science has won an international competition among
8 high school students in the Russian language; and

9 WHEREAS, Sydney Matrisciano of Winona captured a Young Orator
10 prize at the International Olympiada of Spoken Russian in Moscow.
11 In her winning speech, Matrisciano described her experiences
12 studying Russian abroad in the Summer of 2017 and her love for the
13 Russian language. She also gave a dramatic recitation of a poem
14 by Russian Romantic-era Author, Alexander Pushkin; and

15 WHEREAS, "I never, ever expected to win," Matrisciano said in
16 a news release, adding that she began her three-minute speech
17 slowly to combat nerves and gain confidence. As she neared the
18 end of reciting the poem "I Loved You," she said that many of the
19 of judges, teachers, fellow competitors, and other observers in



20 the audience were saying the verses along with her and taking
21 video; and

22 WHEREAS, the daughter of Suzanne and Louis Matrisciano of
23 Winona, the senior was one of 12 winners in the Young Orator event
24 held December 4-8, 2017, at the Pushkin Institute, which
25 specializes in the teaching of Russian as a foreign language. The
26 150 contenders from around the world also wrote essays, took
27 grammar tests and made oral presentations on aspects of Russian
28 civilization. The contestants demonstrated their conversational
29 abilities in role-play with a partner as the judges listened.
30 Each competitor also had an individual scenario-based conversation
31 with the judges; and

32 WHEREAS, Matrisciano, one of six students representing the
33 United States at the Olympiada, is a second-year student of
34 Mississippi School for Math and Science World Language Teacher
35 Margaret Mary Henry. She began her journey to compete in Moscow
36 in April when she won a Gold Medal in the regional Olympiada
37 Competition at Rhodes College in Memphis. From the top scorers in
38 regional competitions, the American Councils for International
39 Education selected the national team through an application and
40 interview process. "Sydney is a marvelous student," Henry said in
41 the news release. "She combines her natural gift for languages
42 with a prodigious work ethic and a spirit of adventure. We are
43 tremendously proud of her"; and



44 WHEREAS, in 2016, Sydney spent six weeks studying Russian in
45 Moldova, a nation that was once a Soviet republic, after winning a
46 scholarship under the National Security Language Initiative for
47 Youth, which sends high school students abroad to study languages
48 that the federal government deems critical to U.S. political and
49 economic interests. Matrisciano hopes to have a career in the
50 U.S. Foreign Service and learned on the day she left for the
51 Moscow Olympiada that she had received a full four-year
52 QuestEridge Scholarship to Northwestern University in Evanston,
53 Illinois, where she plans to specialize in Russian studies and
54 political science; and

55 WHEREAS, "Attending the International Olympiada of Spoken
56 Russian was confirmation and validation of everything I've been
57 striving for with my language study," said Matrisciano, who has
58 also studied French, Italian and Latin. "This competition proved
59 to me that not only will my languages take me places, but once
60 there, I will hold my own and succeed"; and it is with great pride
61 that we recognize a young Mississippi citizen who has brought
62 honor to her school, her community and to the State of
63 Mississippi:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
65 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
66 we do hereby commend and congratulate 17-year-old Mississippi
67 School for Math and Science Student Sydney Matrisciano of Winona,
68 Mississippi, for winning the 2017 "Young Orator Prize" at the



69 International Olympiada of Spoken Russian in Moscow, and extend
70 her our best wishes for future career success.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
72 Sydney Matrisciano and her parents, forwarded to the
73 Superintendent of the Mississippi School for Math and Science, and
74 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

