

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 156

BY SENATOR MCMATH

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the Mandeville High School (MHS) Spinnakers Varsity Dance Team on their outstanding performance at the 2023 Universal Dance Association (UDA) National Dance Team Championship.

WHEREAS, UDA has produced national dance team championships since 1983, and in 1995, partnered with Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, to host its annual event at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports complex; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible to compete in the 2023 event, which in total hosted 365 teams across 33 states, teams had to qualify at various competitions as well as meet certain other credentialing and qualifications; and

WHEREAS, dance teams compete in divisions based on size and category of dance and are judged on a variety of components depending on the category of dance; and

WHEREAS, the Spinnakers Varsity Dance Team has been an institution at MHS since the mid-1980s and has been under the direction of coaches Allie Munster Robichaux and Karleen Bouza Bergeron since late 2017; and

WHEREAS, membership on the Spinnakers Varsity Dance Team is based on competitive auditions and this school year's team is comprised of fifteen outstanding young ladies who decided to set lofty goals and devoted themselves to working together to achieve those goals; and

WHEREAS, the team's first competition was at the invitation-only UDA Master's Camp in New Orleans in early June of 2022 where the team received its first win of the season competing with their home routine and officially qualified for the UDA's National Dance Team Competition; and

WHEREAS, in mid-November, the MHS Spinnakers Dance Team traveled to Brandon, Mississippi, where they competed in UDA's Mississippi Dance Challenge regional competition and received first place for both their Varsity-Pom routine and their

Varsity-Game Day routine; and

WHEREAS, after many more hours of practice and perfecting their skills, in early January of 2023, the MHS Spinnakers Dance Team traveled to Zachary, Louisiana, and competed at the Dance Team Union regional competition, placing first in Varsity-Pom and Small Varsity-Game Day and second in Small Varsity-Jazz and received the "Most Entertaining Award" for their Game Day performance; and

WHEREAS, a few weeks later, the team competed in Hammond, Louisiana, at UDA Louisiana Dance Challenge regional competition where they captured first place in Small Varsity-Game Day and Small Varsity-Jazz and second in Varsity-Pom; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2023, the MHS Spinnakers traveled to Orlando, Florida, to compete in UDA's National Dance Team Competition in the division of Small Varsity-Game Day, Small Varsity-Pom, and Small Varsity-Jazz; and

WHEREAS, after competing their way from the preliminary round to the semi-final round to the final round in each category, the MHS Spinnakers set school records by winning the championship title and first place in Small Varsity - Game Day with a score of 86.85; a bronze medal and third place in Small Varsity-Pom with a score of 92.6125; and fifteenth place in Small Varsity-Jazz with a score of 86.5375; and

WHEREAS, the championship and the medal are a first for MHS Spinnakers in any category at the national championship and their performance in Small Varsity-Pom and Small Varsity-Jazz broke a seven-year drought of making it to the final round; and

WHEREAS, the roster of this year's team includes: Captain Sadie Lopez; Co-Captain Elise Parnell; Lieutenants Sophie Gros and Reese Ellefson; and members Julia Haley, Josie Pearce, Maggy Hopper, Reagan Acosta, Bailey Hunt, Constance Richardson, Ashlyn Alphonso, Brooke Buster, Abigail Keaton, Kalli Hatchett, and Maris McMahon; and

WHEREAS, the team's dedication, hard work, and commitment to their sport and each other is a source of incredible pride for their school, their community, and the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the Mandeville High School Spinnakers Varsity Dance Team on its outstanding performance at the 2023 UCA National Dance Team Championship.

SR NO. 156

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
Mandeville High School Principal, Christian Monson.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE