U.S. SENATE RESOLUTION FOR NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY

S.Res.398 – A resolution designating March 15, 2016, as “National Speech and Debate Education Day”:

Whereas it is essential for youth to learn and practice the art of communicating, with and apart from technology;

Whereas speech and debate education offers students myriad forms of public speaking through which to develop their talents and exercise their unique voice and character;

Whereas speech and debate gives students the 21st century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration;

Whereas important ideas, texts, and philosophies have the opportunity to flourish when they have been analyzed critically and communicated effectively;

Whereas personal, professional, and civic interactions are enhanced by their participants’ abilities to listen, concur, question, and even dissent with reason and compassion;

Whereas students who participate in speech and debate have chosen a challenging activity that requires regular practice, dedication, and hard work;

Whereas teachers and coaches of speech and debate devote in-school, after-school, and weekend hours to equip students with life-changing skills and opportunities;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the lifelong impact of providing citizens with the confidence and preparation to both discern and share their views;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day acknowledges that most achievements, celebrations, commemorations, and pivotal moments in modern history begin, end, or are crystallized with public address;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day recognizes that learning to research, construct, and present an argument is integral to personal advocacy, social movements, and the making of public policy;

Whereas the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of speech and debate through National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the importance of speech and debate instruction and its integration across grade levels and disciplines:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates March 15, 2016, as ‘National Speech and Debate Education Day’;
(2) strongly affirms the purposes of National Speech and Debate Education Day; and
(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and all citizens to celebrate and promote National Speech and Debate Education Day.

SAVE THE DATE! • MARCH 3, 2017