

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1753

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Vanya Shivashankar of Olathe, Kansas, for winning the 2015 National Spelling Bee.

WHEREAS, Vanya Shivashankar, a 13-year-old student at California Trail Junior High in Olathe, Kansas, is the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee co-champion. Vanya devoted much of her free time to studying spelling and takes her education very seriously, aspiring to one day be a cardiac surgeon. Earlier this year, Vanya was named the winner of Lifetime's "Child Genius" competition show; and

WHEREAS, Vanya, with support from her parents, Mirle and Sandy, and sister Kavya, made the trip to Washington, D.C., for the 88th annual competition. More than 11 million students took part in local and state spelling bees and only 285 competitors made it to the national competition. This was Vanya's fifth appearance in the National Spelling Bee; and

WHEREAS, Vanya's sister, Kavya, was named the national champion in 2009. Vanya's victory marked the first time in the National Spelling Bee's history that a sibling of a previous winner had also gone on to win the competition; and

WHEREAS, Vanya's words included "thamakau," "hippocrepiform" and "scherenschnitte." Vanya and Gokul Venkatachalam were crowned co-winners after Gokul exhausted the championship word list by successfully spelling "nunatak." Each champion received a \$30,000 prize plus an engraved trophy; a \$5,000 cash prize from Words With Friends; a \$2,500 U.S. savings bond and a reference library from Merriam-Webster; and \$1,100 worth of reference works from Encyclopedia Britannica: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend Vanya Shivashankar for winning the 2015 National Spelling Bee competition and take pride in her outstanding achievements as a role model for her peers in Kansas and across the nation. We wish her all the best for continued success in all future academic, personal and career challenges as she further develops and applies her amazing gifts; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Vanya Shivashankar and one enrolled copy to her parents, Mirle and Sandy Shivashankar.

Senate Resolution No. 1753 was sponsored by Senator Julia Lynn.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.