



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