

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 6,000 Competitors; 2,000 Schools; 42 Champions ... Since 1931, the National Speech and Debate Tournament has elevated public speaking with more than 6,000 middle and high school students traveling to the largest academic competition in the world to debate current events, voice their views, and share their stories; and,

WHEREAS, After months of preparation and rigorous qualifying tournaments, the Stow-Munroe Falls High School Speech and Debate Team had EIGHT students qualify for the National Tournament held in Phoenix, AZ, June 11th-16th. These eight students were among the students who qualified in Eastern Ohio. Qualifying for nationals is a prestigious honor as it means they are in the top three or four contestants among a field of 30-50 in our area. Tonight we are honoring their achievements; and,

WHEREAS, The Speech and Debate National Tournament consists of 14 different events that are “main events” and several more supplemental events. Preliminary rounds in main events are held Monday and Tuesday, while supplemental events begin Wednesday during elimination rounds in main events. Eventually a handful of competitors remain for final rounds of competition; and,

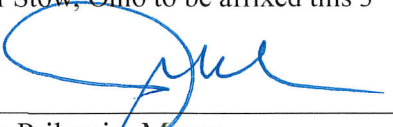
WHEREAS, All four Stow-Munroe Falls seniors advanced at least once to elimination rounds which is amazing! Jason Folk ranked 10th out of 268 at the National Tournament competing in Original Oratory. Nathan Marotta advanced to the top 72 in a group of over 400 students competing in Congressional Debate; he was a national semi-finalist! Natalie Pigman’s World Schools Debate team reached the top 64 among a field of 183 teams, ultimately losing their round of debate on a split (2-1) decision in a room of three judges. Nolan Miller reached the top 60 in a field of 262 in Humorous Interpretation. In supplemental events, junior Penelope Covey reached octafinals, or top 60 out of a field of 500 in Prose. Penelope joined Lauren Garfield in competing in Duo Interpretation in main events. Ryder Kehres competed in Humorous Interpretation and Andrew Loznianu competed in Congressional Debate; and,

WHEREAS, The Speech and Debate Team is under the guidance of an amazing team of coaches: James Miller, Shelby Miller, Suzanne Theisen, and Ryan Hinman. Thank you all for your time, leadership, and guidance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Pribonic, Mayor of the City of Stow wish to congratulate the Stow-Munroe Falls Speech and Debate Team members and coaches on their outstanding achievements this season. You have all made the Stow-Munroe Falls Community very proud. Congratulations!



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Stow, Ohio to be affixed this 3rd day of August, 2023.



John Pribonic, Mayor