

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the City Commission

From: Lisa Agnor, City Manager

Date: April 5, 2018

Subject: Presentation of a Proclamation Honoring the 2017–2018 Melvin B. Tolson/Denzel Washington Forensics Society

Commissioner Gail Beil will present a proclamation honoring the 2017–2018 Melvin B. Tolson/Denzel Washington Forensics Society at the Thursday meeting. Members of the team will be in attendance to accept the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, the 2017 – 2018 Melvin B. Tolson/Denzel Washington Forensics Society stands on a mighty legacy and the Marshall City Commission is honored to recognize their achievements; and

WHEREAS, the 32 member 2017 – 2018 team accumulated 568 awards and honors to date in debate tournaments nationwide; and

WHEREAS, those victories included in The L. E. Norton, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Western Kentucky University, and the Pi Kappa Delta National Comprehensive Tournament; and

WHEREAS, their coach Christopher Medina obtained a three hundred and seventy-nine thousand dollar grant from the Koch Foundation and renewed the million dollar grant from actor Denzel Washington; and

WHEREAS, using those funds, Coach Medina and the 2017-2018 team created the National Historic Black Colleges and Universities Forensics League and organized its first national championship tournament, bringing 400 young people and their coaches to Marshall, January 26-27, 2018; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2018, the team placed second in the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament, making this the fifth time it has placed first or second in this prestigious event; and

WHEREAS, along with former Freedom Rider Hank Thomas, they are the driving force behind the effort to place a statue of James Farmer on the Harrison County Courthouse Square.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Larry Hurta, Chairman of the Marshall City Commission, do hereby commend the 2017–2018 Melvin B. Tolson/Denzel Washington Forensics Society for its role in making Marshall an All-America City.

Larry Hurta, Chairman
Marshall City Commission

