**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE GROUND SHAKERS ROBOTICS TEAM OF SUMMERVILLE FOR BEING THE WINNING ALLIANCE CAPTAIN AT THE SOUTH CAROLINA *FIRST*® TECH CHALLENGE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE 2019‑2020 *FIRST*® ROBOTICS SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON ADVANCING TO THE *FIRST*® WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, on February 15, 2020, the Ground Shakers, *FIRST*® Tech Challenge team, won the South Carolina *FIRST*® Tech Challenge State Championship, giving these students a berth at the *FIRST*® World Championship ‑‑ an honor which cannot be taken away from this team even though the championship which was to be held in Texas in April 2020 was cancelled this year due to the COVID‑19 crisis; and

Whereas, coached by Cheryl Stansbury and Jennifer Holden, participants in the Ground Shakers Robotics Team include Jerry Stansbury, Koa Savage, Colt Savage, Ben Siegal, and Corey Faison, Jr.; and

Whereas, the 2019‑2020 *FIRST*® Tech Challenge theme was “Skystone (SM),” in which teams designed, built, and programmed autonomous and driver‑operated robots to compete in exciting robot matches. Teams had to create a detailed engineering notebook to log meetings, outreach, and design ideas and had to document the engineering process throughout their season. Teams that finished in the top four in robot-game scoring advanced to a playoff where they competed in a final‑four tournament. The Ground Shakers’ team was the captain of the winning alliance, advancing them to the World Championship; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Robotics Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization, conducted twelve match meets, two league championships, and one state championship this year. There are currently more than eight thousand teams around the world; and

Whereas, the overall goal of the South Carolina Robotics Education Foundation is to stimulate students’ interest and capabilities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, thereby increasing the pool of talented and skilled students who pursue careers in these areas; and

Whereas, *FIRST*®, an acronym for “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology,” is a national nonprofit organization that provides STEM opportunities for young people ages six to eighteen in the United States and internationally, impacting more than six hundred sixty thousand young people around the world each year; and

Whereas, ten years of evaluation data document that *FIRST*® participants show a significantly higher statistical interest in STEM fields, increased involvement in STEM‑related activities, greater STEM identity, higher levels of STEM knowledge, and greater interest in STEM careers than students who do not participate; and

Whereas, *FIRST*® participants are more motivated to do well in school, more likely to take a challenging math or science course, and show improved problem solving, time management, conflict resolution, and communication skills. *FIRST*® alumni express a greater interest in going to college and are twice as likely to major in science or engineering as other students; and

Whereas, a *FIRST*® competition is as close to real‑world engineering as a student can get, combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology, the ultimate “Sport for the Mind,” with participants calling it “the hardest fun you’ll ever have”; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly values the significant impact that *FIRST*® has made, as well as the pride and recognition that the members of the Ground Shakers Robotics Team have brought to the Town of Summerville and Dorchester County. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate the Ground Shakers Robotics Team of Summerville for being the winning Alliance Captain at the South Carolina *FIRST*® Tech Challenge State Championship for the 2019‑2020 *FIRST*® Robotics season, and congratulate them on advancing to the *FIRST*® World Championship.

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