**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND AND RECOGNIZE TEAM B.O.L.T. (BERKELEY’S OUTSTANDING LEGO TEAM), WHICH WON THE SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE EAST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE 2018‑2019 FIRST® ROBOTICS SEASON AND ADVANCED TO THE FIRST® CHAMPIONSHIP IN HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Whereas, Berkeley Intermediate and Berkeley Middle school’s FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) team B.O.L.T., won the South Carolina FIRST® LEGO® League East State Championship, giving these students a berth at the FIRST® LEGO® League World Festival at the FIRST® Championship in Houston, Texas, in April; and

Whereas, B.O.L.T.’s team is composed of Lily Bunton, Landon Kokinda, Tori McCay, Samantha Miles, Ariana Miller, Chase Moore, Charlotte Mueller, Denzel Reid, Annalese Smith, and Joshua Wallace and is coached by Nicole Brevard‑Hines, Jeanna Wallace, Jennifer DuBose, Sam Speraw, and Adrian Neals; and

Whereas, the 2018‑2019 FLL theme is Into OrbitSM, and teams must participate in all four areas of the program, including project, core values, robot design, and robot game, and must be judged the best overall in order to advance; and

Whereas, B.O.L.T. developed a solution called Vacuplaque, a battery‑powered toothbrush that suctions the saliva and toothpaste from one’s mouth after brushing. Vacuplaque has a built‑in toothpaste dispenser so astronauts do not have to hold more than one item while brushing; and

Whereas, team members of B.O.L.T. designed, built, and programmed a robot to autonomously complete missions such as space travel, meteor deflection, food production, solar travel, extraction, space walk, 3D printer, satellites, escape velocity, and observatory within a specified period of time; and

Whereas, Berkeley Intermediate and Berkeley Middle schools are located in Moncks Corner and are part of the Berkeley County School District; and

Whereas, the mission of the Berkeley County School District is to “in partnership with our community, ignite in every student a passion for world‑class knowledge and skills through dynamic instruction and personalized educational opportunities”; and

Whereas, twelve regional competitions and two state championships were conducted by South Carolina FIRST® LEGO® League & Robotics Education, Inc.; and

Whereas, South Carolina FIRST® LEGO® League & Robotics Education, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in South Carolina; and

Whereas, the overall goal of South Carolina FIRST® LEGO® League & Robotics Education, Inc., is to stimulate students’ interest and capabilities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, thereby increasing the pool of talented and skilled students who pursue careers in these areas; and

Whereas, South Carolina FIRST® LEGO® League & Robotics Education, Inc., is the affiliate partner for FIRST® LEGO® League and FIRST® LEGO® League Jr in South Carolina; and

Whereas, FIRST (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 615,000 young people around the world each year; and

Whereas, future engineers and inventors from ages six to eight are in teams called FLL Jr (FIRST® LEGO® League Jr), and youth from ages nine to fourteen are FLL, while older students choose between FIRST® Tech Challenge for seventh through twelfth graders and FIRST® Robotics Competition for ninth through twelfth graders; and

Whereas, there are over 40,400 FIRST® LEGO® teams around the world and 313 teams in the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, ten years of evaluation data document that FIRST® participants show a significantly higher statistical interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); 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. The impact is even greater for female students; and

Whereas, FIRST® participants are more motivated to do well in school and more likely to take a challenging math or science course. They also show improved skills in problem solving, time management, conflict resolution, and communication; and

Whereas, 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, 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,” a FIRST® competition is as close to real‑world engineering as a student can get; 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 Team B.O.L.T. have brought to the Berkeley County School District and the Moncks Corner community. With much admiration, the General Assembly wishes Team B.O.L.T. great success at the FIRST® Championship in Houston, Texas. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, commend and recognize Team B.O.L.T. (Berkeley’s Outstanding LEGO Team), which won the South Carolina FIRST® LEGO® League East State Championship for the 2018‑2019 FIRST® robotics season and advanced to the FIRST® championship in Houston, Texas.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Berkeley Intermediate School and Berkeley Middle School.

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