**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO APPLAUD THE SPARTANS OF TOAST ROBOTICS TEAM FOR WINNING THE SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE 2019‑2020 FIRST® ROBOTICS SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THE TEAM ON ADVANCING TO THE FIRST® WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Whereas, on January 11, 2020, the Spartans of TOAST, a Due West Robotics’ FIRST® LEGO® League team, captured the South Carolina FIRST® LEGO® League State Championship, thereby earning a berth at the FIRST® World Championship in Houston, Texas, slated for April 2020; and

Whereas, team members for the Spartans of TOAST are Breeden Crawford, David Clarke, Stone Driggers, Jackson Dunn, Adrian Hershberger, Zack Humphrey, Joel Logan, Palmer Patrick, and Georgia Wojtkowski, all coached by Sara Wojtkowski, Kelley Clarke, and Charles Angel; and

Whereas, working under the 2019‑2020 FIRST® LEGO® League theme, City Shaper(SM), teams must participate in all four areas of the program, including project, core values, robot design, and robot game, and must be judged best overall in order to advance; and

Whereas, the Spartans of TOAST team members developed a solution called the Germ Toaster, which kills germs and sanitizes hands with far‑UVC light. The special wavelength used is not harmful to human skin but can kill germs that spread illness and disease. In May 2019, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control announced that cases of hepatitis A across the State had reached outbreak level. The Germ Toaster has the potential to impede the spread of viruses such as hepatitis A. The device will be beneficial in a multitude of public spaces such as parks, public restrooms, gas stations, and hospitals; and

Whereas, the Spartans of TOAST designed, built, and programmed a robot to complete game missions autonomously on the mission table within a specified period of time, game missions such as design & build, safety factor, elevator, traffic jam, crane, and sustainability upgrades; and

Whereas, the Spartans of TOAST team is guided by Due West Robotics, which provides a sustainable STEM program to educate and inspire young people in all things STEM‑related (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in Abbeville County; and

Whereas, one state competition, twelve qualifying competitions, and two regional ones were conducted by South Carolina FIRST® LEGO® League & Robotics Education, Inc. South Carolina alone has over three hundred FIRST® LEGO® teams, and there are more than thirty‑nine thousand such teams around the world; 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 660,000 young people around the world each year; and

Whereas, a FIRST® competition is as close to real‑world engineering as a student can get, as it combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology (the ultimate “sport for the mind”). Participants call FIRST® competitions “the hardest fun you’ll ever have”; and

Whereas, the General Assembly values the significant impact that FIRST® has made, as well as the pride and recognition the Spartans of TOAST have brought to Due West and Abbeville County. With much admiration, the members wish the team great success at the FIRST® World 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, applaud the Spartans of TOAST robotics team for winning the South Carolina FIRST® LEGO® League State Championship for the 2019‑2020 FIRST® robotics season and congratulate the team on advancing to the FIRST® World Championship in Houston, Texas.

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