**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE ROHMING ROBOTS TEAM OF CHARLESTON FOR WINNING THE SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST® TECH CHALLENGE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE 2019‑2020 FIRST® ROBOTICS SEASON AND TO APPLAUD THE TEAM ON EARNING A BERTH IN THE FIRST® WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Whereas, on February 15, 2020, Clemson Extension 4‑H Youth Development’s FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC) team, the Rohming Robots, captured the South Carolina FIRST® Tech Challenge State Championship, thereby earning a berth at the FIRST® World Championship which was to be held in Houston, Texas, in April of this year; and

Whereas, team members for the Rohming Robots are William Becker, Aaron Bongiorno, Keller DeAntonio, Rachel Emlaw, Justus Faidley, Madeline Gardner, Hannah Garren, Andrew Smoak, and Samantha Strutz, all coached by Linda Stewart and Andrew Blauch; and

Whereas, competing under the 2019‑2020 FIRST® Tech Challenge theme, Skystone, teams designed, built, and programmed autonomous and driver‑operated robots to compete in exciting robot matches. Teams also had to create a detailed engineering notebook to log meetings, outreach, and design ideas and to document the engineering process throughout their season. Teams were required to present their robot and engineering notebook to judges in order to qualify for awards. The Rohming Robots won the first‑place Inspire Award, the highest FTC honor, and this achievement advanced the team to the world championship; and

Whereas, twelve match meets, two league championships, and one state championship were conducted by the South Carolina Robotics Education Foundation. Around the world, there are more than eight thousand FIRST® Tech Challenge robotics teams; 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 House values the significant impact that FIRST® has made, as well as the pride and recognition the Rohming Robots have brought to the City of Charleston and all of Charleston County. With much admiration, the members commend the team for its outstanding achievements; extend sincere regret that this fine group of young people could not compete in this year’s world championship, due to its cancellation because of the current health crisis; and offer best wishes for continued success in competition in the years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Rohming Robots team of Charleston for winning the South Carolina FIRST® Tech Challenge State Championship for the 2019‑2020 FIRST® robotics season and applaud the team on earning a berth in the FIRST® World Championship in Houston, Texas.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Rohming Robots robotics team.

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