**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MEADOW GLEN MIDDLE SCHOOL GATOR GEARS ROBOTICS TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS OF LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE FOR AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE 2021 FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is delighted to learn that the members of the Meadow Glen Middle School Gator Gears robotics team took first place in the Overall State Champion Category in the 2021 FIRST LEGO League Challenge Middle School State Championship; and

Whereas, this year the Gator Gears team was composed of eight members from Meadow Glen Middle School including Anna Zou, Zaynah Wahab, Luke Johnson, Onyekachukwu Idiaghe, Jackson Herring, Abby Gricius, Elliot Goodman, and Mary Taylor Campbell. The team was coached by Cliff Roberts and Amy Dent; and

Whereas, FIRST LEGO League was created to introduce science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to children between the ages of four and sixteen, in an exciting hands‑on learning experience. The league is divided into three divisions: Discover, for Pre‑K through first grade; Explore, for grades two through four; and finally, Challenge, for students in grades four through eight. As students compete, they learn the basics of STEM and apply their skills in exciting competitions that help them to gain productive learning habits, confidence, and teamwork skills; and

Whereas, the Gator Gears won first place in the Overall State Champion category at the Middle School State Championship. The victory was earned due to the team’s overall success and for their implementation of the FIRST LEGO League Challenge values. Those values are the four core elements of the competition: Robot Game, Research, Robot Design, and Core Values, which are counted equally into the overall ranking; and

Whereas, throughout their experience this past year, the members of the Gator Gears gained valuable skills and familiarity with potential STEM careers and have engaged themselves as potential future leaders in South Carolina; and

Whereas, having showed tremendous communication skills, strong leadership, and outstanding tenacity in spite of the trials and tribulations of a school year filled with uncertainty due to COVID‑19, these students should be proud of their accomplishments. Their hard work and willingness to support each other as they collaborated toward a single goal allowed them to achieve this momentous victory; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the pride and recognition that the Meadow Glen Middle School Gator Gears robotics team has earned for their school and their community and look forward to hearing of their continued accomplishments in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Meadow Glen Middle School Gator Gears Robotics team, coaches, and school officials of Lexington County School District One for an outstanding performance in the 2021 First Lego League Challenge, and congratulate them for winning the State Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Dr. Bill Coon, Coaches Cliff Roberts and Amy Dent, and the Meadow Glen Middle School Gator Gears robotics team.

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