

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1809

A RESOLUTION congratulating the Paola Panther Robotics team on its success at the Crossroads Regional FIRST Robotics competition.

WHEREAS, The FIRST Robotics competition is an international high school robotics competition organized by For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST). Each year, teams of high school students compete to build robots weighing 120 pounds that can complete a task, which changes every year. Teams are given a standard set of parts and are required to set a budget when building their robot, and the team has six weeks to build a competitive robot that can operate autonomously as well as when guided by wireless controls to accomplish the game's tasks; and

WHEREAS, FIRST was founded in 1989 by inventor and entrepreneur Dean Kamen, with inspiration and assistance from physicist and MIT professor emeritus Woodie Flowers; and

WHEREAS, There are 44 FIRST district competitions, 54 regional competitions and one championship event held each year; and

WHEREAS, FIRST Team 1108 was founded in 2003 at Paola High School and made an immediate impact on the robotics scene. The team won the Rookie All-Star Award during its first season at the championship event; and

WHEREAS, This season, the team traveled to Terre Haute, Indiana, and participated in the Crossroads Regional where it received four major awards. The team received its record-tying eighth Regional Chairman's Award, mentor Gregg Rupp was named as a Woodie Flowers Award Finalist and team president Kate Sample was named as a Dean's List Finalist. Topping the weekend off for Panther Robotics, FIRST Team 1108 was captain of the winning alliance, its first regional win since its inception in 2003; and

WHEREAS, The Chairman's Award is the most prestigious award a team can win at a regional competition or at the championship, more so than even winning the competition itself. The Woodie Flowers Award is awarded to a mentor within a team who the team believes has made a large contribution and deserves to be recognized, with criteria based on how well the mentor inspires the students toward better communication and engineering. The Dean's List Award recognizes individual students for their technical knowledge, leadership skills and their ability to inspire their team toward FIRST's mission; and

WHEREAS, Members of Panther Robotics will compete at the championship competition on April 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri. They will compete against other regional tournament and Chairman Award winners from across the country: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate the Paola Panther Robotics team on its success at the Crossroads Regional FIRST Robotics competition. The FIRST Robotics competition is a way to boost the science, technology, engineering and math fields at all levels of education, and the Paola Panther Robotics team exemplifies this mission. We wish them tremendous success at the championship competition; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send 20 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Apple.

Senate Resolution No. 1809 was sponsored by Senator Pat Apple.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*