

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 86 Session of  
2019

INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, MASSER, DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, BURNS,  
KORTZ, MILLARD, RYAN, NEILSON, READSHAW, KINSEY, BERNSTINE,  
MARKOSEK, OBERLANDER, DELOZIER, GLEIM, SAYLOR AND HELM,  
FEBRUARY 19, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 19, 2019

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the immense value of robotics and STEM education;  
2 and applauding the efforts of Cumberland County's *FIRST* Tech  
3 Challenge team, The Javengers, for their outreach to the  
4 underserved community to advance interest in robotics and  
5 STEM education.

6 WHEREAS, The *FIRST* Tech Challenge is an international  
7 robotics competition for middle and high school students, which  
8 is sponsored by the not-for-profit organization, FIRST; and

9 WHEREAS, FIRST is an acronym meaning, "For Inspiration and  
10 Recognition of Science and Technology"; and

11 WHEREAS, *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams design, build, program  
12 and operate robots of their own design, costing thousands of  
13 dollars, to play a floor game in an alliance format; and

14 WHEREAS, Guided by adult coaches and mentors, students  
15 participating in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge develop STEM skills  
16 and practice engineering principles, while realizing the value  
17 of hard work, innovation and sharing ideas; and

18 WHEREAS, Since 1989, FIRST has inspired and motivated

1 students around the world to pursue education and careers in  
2 STEM; and

3 WHEREAS, Each year, over 615,000 students from 90 countries  
4 compete in over 3,000 robotics competitions supported by FIRST;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Not only does FIRST promote STEM for students, FIRST  
7 also inspires future engineers to share their knowledge with  
8 their younger peers as mentors; and

9 WHEREAS, Students who participate in FIRST programs have  
10 access to \$80 million in college scholarships; and

11 WHEREAS, The Javengers is a *FIRST* Tech Challenge team located  
12 in Mechanicsburg with team members from Cumberland County and  
13 Dauphin County; and

14 WHEREAS, The Javengers are competing in the 2019 Pennsylvania  
15 championships for the *FIRST* Tech Challenge and have won several  
16 awards at both the regional and State levels of the *FIRST* Tech  
17 Challenge; and

18 WHEREAS, The Javengers promote STEM to minority and women's  
19 groups that lack appropriate representation in the STEM industry  
20 by presenting at Girls' World Expo, holding free robotics camps  
21 for girls and teaching special needs students in the Harrisburg  
22 School District how to build and operate robots; and

23 WHEREAS, The Javengers have instituted and mentored FIRST  
24 programs within this Commonwealth and abroad by:

25 (1) starting and mentoring five new FIRST Lego League  
26 teams and three new Junior FIRST Lego League teams;

27 (2) holding their fourth annual robotics camp for both  
28 boys and girls;

29 (3) mentoring several other *FIRST* Tech Challenge and  
30 FIRST Lego League teams; and

1           (4) remotely starting a robotics club in an elementary  
2       school located in rural India by donating Lego robots to them  
3       and demonstrating how to build and program the robots;

4   and

5       WHEREAS, One hundred percent of The Javengers' alumni are  
6       studying STEM-related majors at institutions such as Johns  
7       Hopkins University, Dartmouth College, Georgia Institute of  
8       Technology, Duke University, University of Pittsburgh and Penn  
9       State University; therefore be it

10       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
11       immense value of robotics and STEM education; and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives applaud the  
13       efforts of Cumberland County's *FIRST* Tech Challenge team, The  
14       Javengers, for their outreach to the underserved community to  
15       advance interest in robotics and STEM education.