

March 23, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FROM: Representative Dan Frankel
SUBJECT: Co-sponsor Resolution – National Robotics Week

In the near future, I will introduce a resolution recognizing April 9 through 17, 2011, as National Robotics Week and recognizing the contributions of Pennsylvanians in the field of robotics. I hope you will join me in support of this resolution.

National Robotics Week is held each year to celebrate the US as a leader in robotics technology development, educate the public about how robotics technology impacts society, both now and in the future, and inspire students of all ages to pursue careers in robotics and other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math-related fields.

Pennsylvania has a storied history with robotics and is home to numerous robotic companies, robotic research institutions, and student competitions.

In the aftermath of the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, scientists from Carnegie Mellon developed several robots that protected the lives of cleanup personnel only a few miles from the Capitol. The expertise of Pennsylvania robotic companies could be important in dealing with some of the world's most challenging crises, including containing nuclear radiation at Japan's earthquake stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant.

Additionally, at the end of April, a team of 24 high school girls interested in robotics will be one of seven teams across the state to represent Pennsylvania in the For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition Championship in St. Louis, Missouri. There are a total of 97 student teams in Pennsylvania who participated at the local and regional level of the FIRST Robotics Competition in 2011. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia were both host cities to the regional level competitions.

These are just a few examples of the many contributions robotics technology has made across the Commonwealth. With this in mind, my resolution would recognize April 9 through 17, 2011, as National Robotics Week and honor those Pennsylvanians who have developed lifesaving robots, instruct students about robotics and participate in robotic competitions

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Abbie Heller in my office via e-mail (aheller@pahouse.net) or phone (717-783-7309).