

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 162

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Block Jocks upon their first-place victory at the First LEGO League state tournament.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly acknowledge those young Tennesseans who dedicate themselves to excellence, setting a standard to which others may aspire; and

WHEREAS, the Block Jocks of Hal Henard Elementary in Greeneville recently garnered a first-place win in the First LEGO League state tournament, held in Cookeville on February 11, 2017, a success most befitting this group of dedicated young scholars; and

WHEREAS, Selena Ashley, Sydney Batson, Shane Candelaria, Alexia Harmon, Alex Hartman, Zachary Howard, Jack Lampe, Emma Olson, Wade Parton, and Mason Philbeck comprise the accomplished team, which won first place overall in regional competition and earned the top spot in the "Innovation Solution" category in statewide competition; and

WHEREAS, First—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology—LEGO League brings together teams of students ages nine to fourteen to build and display robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology; and

WHEREAS, the program incorporates science, technology, engineering, mathematics, artistic design, and performance, as well as a set of core values including teamwork, friendly competition, discovery, "gracious professionalism," and fun; and

WHEREAS, each team designs, builds, and programs a robot using LEGO blocks and components and then competes on a table-top playing field, completing a variety of missions; team members also research a specific topic, design a solution to a problem, and work together to present it to the judges; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's competition was "Animal Allies," which tasked the teams with identifying a problem wherein animals and people interact and then designing a solution to improve that interaction; and

WHEREAS, the Block Jocks presented their research about the impact on animals, specifically dogs, and humans if they ingest rat poison; the team worked with local veterinarian Alisa Howard during the course of their research; and

WHEREAS, in emergency situations involving the ingestion of rat poison, doctors and veterinarians do not know how much of the poison has been consumed, thus complicating the administering of the cure, vitamin K, too little of which can cause excessive bleeding and too much of which clots the blood; the team's solution to this problem was to add the radioactive isotope Barium to rat poison, which would allow the determination of the quantity ingested via X-ray; and

WHEREAS, while working on the project, the Block Jocks consulted a rat poison company in Ohio. The company was impressed with and inspired by the young researchers, and company officials are now seeking permission from the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a prototype; the Block Jocks are working to secure a patent for their solution; and

WHEREAS, through dedication and hard work, the Block Jocks have proven themselves to be among the best and brightest young people in this State, and it is fitting that they be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate the Block Jocks upon their first-place victory at the First LEGO League state tournament, wishing them much success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.