

Senator Switalski offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 139

A resolution honoring the ThunderChickens, world champions in the FIRST Robotics Competition Championship.

Whereas, It is a great pleasure to congratulate the students, mentors, teachers, and parents of the ThunderChickens, who shared the honor of being the world champions in the FIRST Robotics Competition Championship along with two other teams. On behalf of the people of Michigan, we thank everyone who has contributed to this success of these Utica Community Schools students; and

Whereas, FIRST--"For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology"--seeks to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology through a competition that melds robotics and sports. Teams have six weeks to design and build, from a kit of hundreds of parts, a robot that competes in various sporting events; and

Whereas, This year, students created robots that fired foam balls through hoops, plowed into floor goals, and used a vision system to navigate on the field. More than 1,130 teams from the United States and six other nations participated at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta in April; and

Whereas, The ThunderChickens, which competed as Team 217 in the competition, is comprised of the following students:

Eisenhower High School

Michael DelBene
Jessica Zavadil
Shannon Willaert
Gregory Petty
Annette Palazzolo
Jacob Miller
Joseph Guzzardo
Sara Craun
Nina Fabian
Kyle Yaxley

Utica High School

Salvatore Mattera
Joseph Scharnitzke

Stevenson High School

Stephanie Hasty
Sala Sadaps
Steven Perry
Joshua Bails
Brian Turoski
Irene Zhu
James Courtois
Tony Kraus
Michael Harrison
Ryan Boyle
Brett Ankawi
Michael Lee

Sterling Heights High School

Chad Thornbro

Ford II High School

Anthony Schuller
Michael Ross
Ashley VanMaldeghem
Shayna Kunz
David Orban
Paul Szymanski
Andrew Fonk
Gregory Lau
Aaron Vedolich
Brian Lademan
Mihai Bulic
Heather Hampton
Ed Lionte

; and

Whereas, The mentors at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology include:

Teacher Mentors

Ron Arscheene
Mike Attan
Anita Stafford
Janet Kent

Engineering and Technical Mentors

Paul Copioli
Ed Debler
Bob Korson
Mike Copioli
Mike Beem

Jim Yaxley
Rick Thornbro
Omar Zrien
Bill Baedke

; and

Whereas, While the ThunderChickens team has won various regional and other awards since 1999, its members also find time to participate in community events. The team volunteers at Give Kids a Smile, a dental day for children without insurance, and other events around Macomb County; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby honor the ThunderChickens as world champions in the FIRST Robotics Competition Championship; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the ThunderChickens as a token of our highest esteem and congratulations.