

Rep. Driskell offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 329.

A resolution to declare April 10, 2014, as Robotics Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Robotics has matured into an all-encompassing and enabling technology that, as a pillar of 21st-century innovation, is positioned to fuel a broad array of next generation products and applications, transform our society, and become as ubiquitous over the next several decades as desktop and mobile computing technology is today; and

Whereas, The emerging market for service robotics in various sectors, including healthcare, national defense, homeland security, energy, manufacturing, logistics, transportation, agriculture, education, consumer goods, and others, is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of nearly 20 percent over the next few years to become a worldwide \$27 billion industry; and

Whereas, Robotics is a critical technology capable in the near term of contributing to the economic recovery by creating new jobs, increasing productivity, improving quality, and increasing worker safety, and equally capable over time of addressing the longer term labor and healthcare issues; and

Whereas, Robotics technology holds tremendous potential for reducing the cost of healthcare delivery, stimulating the discovery and development of new procedures and treatments for a wide variety of diseases and disorders, improving the standard and accessibility of care, providing individuals with disabilities, especially injured veterans, with greater independence and dignity, and enhancing overall patient health outcomes; and

Whereas, Robotics technology is proving essential to our national defense and homeland security by enabling the ongoing development and fielding of unmanned air, ground, and maritime systems that today help keep our nation's war-fighters and protectors out of harm's way, and in the long run will serve as a highly effective force multiplier; and

Whereas, Robotics is a key transformative technology that can revolutionize manufacturing by enabling small and mid-sized companies to cost effectively combine highly skilled workers and highly adaptable, precise, and reliable equipment to create and make high value products in high-stakes industries; and

Whereas, Robotics is rapidly proving to be one of the most effective, compelling, and engaging means for teaching and reinforcing fundamental science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts as well as inspiring youth to pursue STEM-related careers thereby helping to create a highly skilled, 21st-century American workforce; and

Whereas, America's ability to maintain its leadership position and be both globally competitive and cooperative in a wide range of rapidly emerging markets is being currently challenged by other regions, including the European Union, Korea, and Japan, who have committed to making multi-billion dollar, long-term investments in further developing and commercializing robotics technology; and

Whereas, There is a strong need to recognize America's leadership in robotics technology, educate the public on robotics technology's broad potential, growing importance, and future impact on society, underscore the need for increased investment in robotics technology research and development, and inspire youth to pursue careers in robotics and other STEM-related fields; and

Whereas, The second week in April each year is designated as National Robotics Week. This recognizes the accomplishments of Isaac Asimov, who immigrated to America, taught

science, wrote science books for children and adults, was the first person to use the term robotics, developed the Three Laws of Robotics, and died in April 1992; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 10, 2014, as Robotics Day in the state of Michigan.