

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5165

Commending the Tuxedo Pandas.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, September 18, 2014
Agreed to by the Senate, September 18, 2014

WHEREAS, the Tuxedo Pandas, a robotics team of eighth grade and ninth grade students from Montgomery County Public Schools, won their second consecutive FIRST Tech Challenge state championship in March 2014; and

WHEREAS, the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge is an international competition that encourages interest in science, technology, engineering, and math with hands-on robotics activities; the Tuxedo Pandas—Team 4924—have participated in the tournament since 2011; and

WHEREAS, at the 2013 - 2014 state championship, the Tuxedo Pandas claimed the Inspire Award, the competition's top award for the team that is both competitive in challenges and professional and gracious off the field; and

WHEREAS, in April 2014, the Tuxedo Pandas placed ninth at the 2013 - 2014 FIRST Tech Challenge East Super Regional and advanced to the World Championship in St. Louis, where they finished as finalists for the Connect Award, which recognizes the team that is most connected with the local engineering community; and

WHEREAS, the Tuxedo Pandas owe much of their success to generous support from the New River Robotics Association and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center; Franky Marchand, the team's coach, was also nominated for the FIRST Tech Challenge Compass Award, which recognizes coaches or mentors who provided outstanding guidance and support; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Tuxedo Pandas on winning their second consecutive FIRST Tech Challenge state championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Franky Marchand, coach of the Tuxedo Pandas, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the team's achievements and best wishes for the future.

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