

By Representative Crow

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House Resolution

A resolution designating April 27, 2002, as
"FIRST Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, founded over a decade ago by inventor and entrepreneur Dean Kamen, FIRST, an acronym for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering, and

WHEREAS, the initial FIRST Robotics Competition began 10 years ago with 28 teams and a single 14-square-foot playing field, and today more than 600 national and international teams involving over 20,000 high school students in the United States, Canada, Brazil, and the United Kingdom will participate in 17 regional events during March and April 2002 and a championship event to be held at Disney's Epcot in Orlando scheduled for April 25-27, and

WHEREAS, standard "kits of parts" are distributed to adult team mentors, after which FIRST participants have only six weeks to work with their mentors to solve a common problem using the parts and a standard set of rules to create an original robot with which to participate in regional competitions, and

WHEREAS, the game for the FIRST Robotics Competition 2002, "Zone Zeal," will feature robots that race around a playing field gathering balls, put the balls into goals, and place the goals in their scoring zones, all in less than two minutes, and

1 WHEREAS, outgrowths of FIRST Robotics are the FIRST
2 LEGO League, a successful Jr. Robotics program that introduces
3 science and technology to elementary and middle school
4 students using real-world challenges and hands-on learning,
5 and the FIRST Place program, which provides the environment to
6 inspire and educate others in field science and technology,
7 and

8 WHEREAS, truly a cooperative team effort to awaken
9 young people to the accessibility, fun, and importance of
10 science and engineering, FIRST has attracted colleges,
11 universities, corporations, businesses, and individuals to
12 provide millions in scholarships, including \$1.7 million for
13 students participating in FIRST this year, NOW, THEREFORE,
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15 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
16 Florida:

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18 That the House of Representatives congratulates all the
19 participants, mentors, and sponsors of the 11th annual FIRST
20 Robotics Competition and designates April 27, 2002, as "FIRST
21 Day" in Florida.
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