

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1824

A RESOLUTION congratulating Erie High School on being selected for the final round in a competition to build and test designs for radiation shields for NASA's new Orion spacecraft.

WHEREAS, NASA, the NIA and Lockheed Martin, the prime contractor for the Orion program, unveiled the Exploration Design Challenge on March 11, 2013, to give students from kindergarten through 12th grade the opportunity to play a unique role in the future of human spaceflight. The challenge encourages students in the U.S. and abroad to think and act like scientists and engineers to overcome one of the major hurdles for deep space long-duration exploration: Protecting astronauts and hardware from the dangers of space radiation; and

WHEREAS, Five high school teams from the United States and foreign countries, including Erie High School, were selected to compete in the final round in NASA's competition to build and test designs for radiation shields for the new Orion spacecraft. The competition is part of the Exploration Design Challenge (EDC), developed by NASA and Lockheed Martin, with support from the National Institute of Aerospace (NIA); and

WHEREAS, Forty-six teams from around the world submitted engineering notebooks with proposed radiation shield designs. After review by Orion engineers, as well as NASA and NIA educators, five teams were selected to move on to the next phase of the competition, including Team Erion of Erie High School; and

WHEREAS, Members of Team Erion include: Ashlyn Taylor, Madison Steenrod, Sabrina Graham and Lorena South. Their expert mentor was Virginia Wolken; and

WHEREAS, The high school teams were asked to design shielding to protect a radiation detector on Orion as it flies through the Van Allen Belt, a dense radiation field that surrounds the Earth. Because the belt begins 600 miles above Earth, no spacecraft built for humans has flown through it in more than 40 years. Orion, which will travel to an altitude of about 3,600 miles on its first flight test, will spend a significant portion of its four-hour mission exposed to the effects of the Van Allen Belt; and

WHEREAS, For the next phase of the competition, the final five teams will build prototypes of their designs, which will be tested by engineers at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, before the winning design is chosen; and

WHEREAS, The winning team will be announced in April, and their design will be launched into space on Orion later this year. This uncrewed mission, designated Exploration Flight Test-1 (EFT-1), will be the first spaceflight test of the capsule that will one day carry astronauts to an asteroid and Mars: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate Team Erion on being selected for the final round in the NASA competition and we wish them tremendous success in the finals; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Abrams.

Senate Resolution No. was sponsored by Senators Steve Abrams and Jeff King.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

---

---

*President of the Senate.*

---

*Secretary of the Senate.*