2023 Regular Session **ENROLLED**

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY SENATOR HEWITT

A RESOLUTION

To commend the outstanding performance of the Lake Castle Slidell Private School Robotics Team at the 2023 International SeaPerch Challenge.

WHEREAS, the Lake Castle Slidell Private School, which opened in 1987, continues to uphold its motto of excellence in education; and

WHEREAS, the intellectually skilled sixth and seventh-grade students comprising the 2023 Lake Castle Private School's Robotics Team, also known as *Team Viper*, impressively secured a spot within the top fifty among the extensive pool of over one hundred SeaPerch teams globally; and

WHEREAS, SeaPerch is a competition and community which fosters the development of students in constructing underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROV), while providing educators with resources and training to facilitate the journey, ultimately enriching the skills of STEM professionals worldwide; and

WHEREAS, dubbed more than just a program, the SeaPerch international program is a community, infused with local elements, striving to diminish conventional obstacles to engage in state-of-the-art robotics programs, while equipping STEM professionals with practical and interconnected learning content that bridges the gap between academia and real-world applications; and

WHEREAS, the SeaPerch Program extends beyond the realm of constructing underwater ROVs, it also encompasses a nurturing ecosystem comprising students, educators, mentors, and advocates, uniting to *conquer the world, pool by pool* through the prestigious SeaPerch Challenge, an exclusive invitation-only event where teams that excel in this registered regional contest earn their coveted opportunity to compete in the culminating event, the annual International SeaPerch Competition; and

WHEREAS, at the 2023 Regional SeaPerch Challenge in Marine Robotics, held at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, *Team Viper* not only secured an

invitation but triumphed, earning an impressive ranking among the top fifty teams out of more than one hundred international participants; and

WHEREAS, after showcasing impressive engineering skills through technical papers and presentations, *Team Viper* was recognized by the SeaPerch Program and RoboNation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering students in finding innovative solutions to global challenges through immersive educational experiences, earning a fourth-place ranking in the Mission Course Ranking, a third-place ranking in the Obstacle Course Ranking, a forty-fourth ranking in the Technical Design Ranking, a thirty-ninth ranking in the Team Video Ranking, and an overall praiseworthy fourth-place position among their international counterparts; and

WHEREAS, *Team Viper* and three other high schools from the United States will proudly serve as representatives of the Gulf Coast region in the upcoming 2023 International SeaPerch Competition, showcasing the undeniable validation and testament to the effectiveness of Lake Castle Slidell Private School's commitment to their *educational excellence* school motto and following the principle stated by Plato, "The direction in which education starts a man, will determine his future life."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED with an amalgamation of exceptional educators, a dynamic and forward-thinking curriculum, and well-structured classroom settings, the Lake Castle Slidell Private School SeaPerch Robotics Team can proudly bask in the international limelight, celebrating the remarkable achievements of being among the very best at the 2023 SeaPerch Challenge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Lake Castle Slidell Private School Robotics Team, known as *Team Viper*, for their remarkable victory in the 2023 International SeaPerch Challenge, and offers sincere congratulations on their outstanding international achievement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the principal of the Lake Castle Slidell Private School, Brian J. Butera.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE