

BY: Senator MAYER

CONGRATULATING the Columbus Elementary School Chess Team upon the occasion of capturing the 2019 US Chess Federation National Elementary K-6U1000 Chess Championship

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive games can be achieved only through practice, commitment, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Scholastic competition enhances the moral and mental development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, From May 9-12, 2019, five Columbus Elementary School students competed in the US Chess Federation National Elementary K-6U1000 Chess Championship in Nashville, Tennessee; they were among 2252 chess players representing 46 states competing on 700 teams in 16 sections; and

WHEREAS, In the first event, on Thursday May 9, 2019, the chess students competed in 11 rounds of Blitz (speed chess), placing 7th in the nation; after playing seven additional rounds of chess, the Columbus Elementary School Chess Team finished the weekend in First Place; and

WHEREAS, The talent displayed by this team is due in great part to the efforts of Coach Mark Hegenauer, a skilled and inspirational tutor, respected for his ability to develop potential into excellence; and

WHEREAS, The team's overall record is outstanding, and the team members were loyally and enthusiastically supported by family, fans, friends and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, The hallmarks of the Columbus Elementary School Chess Team, from the opening match of the season to participation in the championship, proved to be a group of masterminds, displaying good sportsmanship and ability, and demonstrating that these team players are second to none; and

WHEREAS, Competitively and academically, the members of this exemplary team have proven themselves to be an unbeatable combination of talents, reflecting favorably on their school; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mark Hegenauer has done a superb job in guiding, molding and inspiring the team members toward their goals; and

WHEREAS, Competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and Coach Mark Hegenauer and his outstanding team have clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a

tradition of their school; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the members of the Columbus Elementary School Chess Team: Constantine Zalatis, Dylan Minchez, Ignacio Valencia, Dylan Solovyev, and Aiden Rodriguez; and Coach Mark Hegenauer upon the occasion of capturing the 2019 US Chess Federation National Elementary Chess Championship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the Columbus Elementary School Chess Team and Coach Mark Hegenauer.