

ROBOTS ROCK U.S. CONGRESS!

MANCHESTER, NH (June 26, 1998) -- Twelve FIRST teams whetted the appetites of United States Legislators and others in attendance at the Capitol Hill Invitational on Thursday, June 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The robots ran flawlessly as the ever-changing audience watched and was mesmerized. All onlookers were captivated by the looks and technology of the machines and the action-packed game, Ladder Logic. Numerous new technofans stayed well beyond their self-limiting "few minutes away from the office."

Because of limited space, only two teams battled against each other in the matches instead of the usual three. The playing field was scaled down for the event, but the intrigue and enthusiasm were not. The DJ, announcer, MC [Woodie Flowers](#), team excitement, and music beckoned the white-collared passersby to leave the stately halls and join the denim and T-shirted FIRST folks in the small foyer set aside in the Rayburn Building for the competition. It was an electric combination of statesmen, brains, and 'bots!

The matches, as usual, were exciting! Team 120, NASA Lewis Research Center/TRW, Inc./Battelle Memorial Institute/The Illuminating Co. & East Technical High School came from the "east" side of the double elimination chart to take top spot over Team 16, Baxter Healthcare Corporation & Mountain Home High School, a close second. The other six teams competing in this closely-matched event were: Team 23, Boston Edison Company & Plymouth North High School; Team 41, Cordis Corporation/Johnson & Johnson & Watchung Hills Regional High School; Team 47, Delphi Interior and Lighting Systems & Pontiac Central High School; Team 111, Motorola, Inc. & Rolling Meadows and Wheeling High Schools; Team 169, University of Texas El Paso & Montwood High School; Team 191, XEROX Corporation & Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School.

Four teams provided excellent support on the field and behind the scenes. They had the opportunity to experience a lot of what FIRST does prior to and after the competitions. There were late hours unloading the truck and setting up the field. FIRST gives a hearty "thanks" to these teams: Team 19, Bell Atlantic & Greenwich High School; Team 24, Boston Scientific Corporation & Edgewood High School; Team 34, Chrysler Corporation/Huntsville Electronics & Bob Jones High School; Team 69, The Gillette Company & Quincy Public High Schools.

It is exciting to think what a large impact this event can have on students' lives all over our country. Our hope is that our Legislators will not forget the techy excitement and will become involved and embrace other districts and other schools. It is our goal to involve other willing and ripe minds that are ready for the challenges and fun that only the study of science and technology can provide. Write your Legislators to make sure they don't forget the mission!