

By: Geren

H.R. No. 15

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, 2003 marks the 100th anniversary of powered, manned  
2 flight, and the aerospace enterprise has played a significant role  
3 in the emergence of modern-day Texas; and

4           WHEREAS, Aviation has long benefited two of the state's  
5 preeminent industries--agriculture, through such activities as  
6 aerial seeding, fertilizing, and crop dusting, and oil, through  
7 aerial surveying, convenient travel between scattered drilling  
8 sites, and the ferrying of cargo and crews to offshore rigs; a  
9 mainstay of business, general aviation has also facilitated the  
10 conduct of fire fighting and law enforcement and the transport of  
11 critically ill and injured individuals to hospitals; and

12           WHEREAS, Texas received its first commercial air service in  
13 1925, and the rapid development of the commercial airline industry  
14 proved enormously beneficial to both business and the general  
15 public; by 1999, Texas commercial airports served more than 66.3  
16 million passengers, and ease of travel had encouraged a number of  
17 international firms to make Texas the site of their headquarters or  
18 other important operations; and

19           WHEREAS, Military aviation, too, has figured prominently in  
20 the annals of the state; during World Wars I and II, Texas became  
21 host to numerous flight training fields, owing to its favorable  
22 climate and level plains, and the state continued to serve as the  
23 site of major air bases during the ensuing Cold War; since the  
24 1940s, Texas has also been home to major aircraft manufacturing

1 plants; and

2 WHEREAS, Just 53 years after Houston witnessed the state's  
3 first airplane flight, on February 18, 1910, the city welcomed the  
4 opening of the nation's Manned Spacecraft Center in September 1963;  
5 now known as the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, this facility  
6 currently has responsibility for the space shuttle program and the  
7 country's participation in the international space station; with  
8 more than 16,000 workers, the Johnson Space Center injects \$4  
9 billion annually into the local economy; and

10 WHEREAS, Supporting aviation in Texas is an extensive  
11 infrastructure, ranging from airports and landing strips to  
12 manufacturers, service providers, university research, and  
13 governmental assistance; the Aviation Division of the Texas  
14 Department of Transportation, established in 1945 as the Texas  
15 Aeronautics Commission, plays a key role in dispensing federal and  
16 state funds for the improvement of facilities and in attracting new  
17 aerospace business and industry to the state; and

18 WHEREAS, Aviation touches the lives of Texans in myriad ways  
19 and constitutes a vital and expanding segment of the Texas economy;  
20 now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
22 Legislature hereby recognize January 13-26, 2003, as the Centennial  
23 of Flight Celebration in the State of Texas and encourage all Texans  
24 to participate in the festivities and to support the aerospace  
25 enterprise in the Lone Star State.