

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 72

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Joan Higginbotham is contributing to the long-term
2 progress and prosperity of this great nation as an esteemed member
3 of the NASA astronaut corps; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Chicago, Ms. Higginbotham began her
5 career at the Kennedy Space Center in 1987 after earning a
6 bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois
7 University at Carbondale; she quickly proved herself a talented
8 engineer and an astute leader, and by the end of her nine-year
9 tenure at the center, she had participated in more than 50 space
10 shuttle launches; moreover, she obtained master's degrees in
11 management and space systems from the Florida Institute of
12 Technology; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Higginbotham was selected to join the NASA
14 astronaut corps in April 1996 and reported to the Johnson Space
15 Center that same year; since then, she has completed intensive
16 training and gained vital experience in various branches of the
17 agency; in December 2006, she completed her first space flight as a
18 crew member of shuttle mission STS-116, for which she served as
19 mission specialist; considered one of NASA's most complex missions,
20 STS-116 entailed rewiring the space station, and for her part,
21 Mission Specialist Higginbotham successfully operated the robotics
22 arm and oversaw the transfer of equipment from the shuttle to the
23 station; and

24 WHEREAS, This highly regarded professional credits much of

1 her success to the encouragement she received early on from her
2 parents, and today she serves as a motivational speaker for young
3 people; throughout her career, she has won numerous honors, and she
4 is the recipient of a prestigious NASA Exceptional Service Medal;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Joan Higginbotham is dedicated to advancing
7 science, technology, and human potential through space exploration
8 and research, and she indeed merits the admiration of her fellow
9 citizens for her remarkable service in behalf of this nation; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commend Joan Higginbotham for her exemplary
13 service to NASA and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued
14 success; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Ms. Higginbotham as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.