

By: Davis of Harris

H.R. No. 475

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of the State of Texas,
2 is pleased to honor the National Aeronautics and Space
3 Administration (NASA) for its intrepid exploration of space and
4 commend the agency for its many significant scientific discoveries;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The objectives of the Vision for Space Exploration
7 program are to safely use the space shuttle until its retirement,
8 complete and maintain the International Space Station, develop the
9 crew exploration vehicle, Orion, and return humans to the Moon and
10 send them to Mars and beyond; and

11 WHEREAS, The year 2006 was an outstanding one for space
12 exploration and included three successful space shuttle missions to
13 work on the International Space Station; Texas A&M University
14 graduate Michael Fossum and Stephanie Wilson, a graduate of The
15 University of Texas, flew aboard the space shuttle Discovery in
16 July, representing the State of Texas in space; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2007, NASA will continue building the
18 International Space Station and forge ahead, keeping the tradition
19 of Texans in space; three crewmembers of Mission STS-117 call Texas
20 home--James Francis Reilly II, John "Danny" Olivas, and Patrick
21 Graham Forrester; and

22 WHEREAS, Space exploration has ushered in new and exciting
23 technological advances that have benefited our nation's security,
24 safety, and communications; NASA has advanced our health-care

1 system through the development of MRI and CAT scan technology,
2 fetal heart monitors, programmable heart pacemakers, and other
3 valuable medical devices; and

4 WHEREAS, Through education programs like Texas Aerospace
5 Scholars, the NASA Explorer Schools, and the Network of Educator
6 Astronaut Teachers, NASA is nurturing a new generation of explorers
7 and scientists who can contribute to our nation's excellence; and

8 WHEREAS, The agency plays a vital role in the economy of the
9 Lone Star State by employing more than 3,400 civil servants and
10 approximately 13,000 contractor personnel at the Johnson Space
11 Center and by awarding more than \$4 billion worth of NASA contracts
12 annually; small businesses across Texas with technical challenges
13 have benefited from NASA and the aerospace industry through the
14 support of the Technology Outreach Program, resulting in the
15 creation of new jobs and new business ventures within the state; and

16 WHEREAS, The Vision for Space Exploration is a bold
17 initiative that has the potential to inspire further innovation,
18 development, and advancement in the aerospace and other
19 high-technology industries across the nation and in the State of
20 Texas; and

21 WHEREAS, The extraordinary contributions of NASA to science
22 and technology are the pride of our state, and its implementation of
23 the Vision for Space Exploration is truly deserving of legislative
24 recognition; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of
26 Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commend the National Aeronautics
27 and Space Administration on its outstanding accomplishments and

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1 extend best wishes to the agency for many successful endeavors
2 through the Vision for Space Exploration program; and, be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the
5 agency as an expression of highest regard from the Texas House of
6 Representatives.