

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 172

WHEREAS, Joan Higginbotham is contributing to the long-term progress and prosperity of this great nation by serving as a member of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut corps; and

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

WHEREAS, Joan was selected to join the NASA astronaut corps in April of 1996; she reported to the Johnson Space Center that same year, and since then, she has completed intensive training and gained vital experience in various branches of the agency; in December of 2006, she completed her first space flight as a crew member of shuttle mission STS-116, on which she served as mission specialist; considered one of NASA's most complex missions, STS-116 was charged with rewiring the space station, and for her part, Mission Specialist Higginbotham successfully operated the robotic arm and oversaw the transfer of equipment from the shuttle to the station; and

WHEREAS, This highly regarded professional credits much of her success to the encouragement she received early on from

her parents, and today she serves as a motivational speaker for young people; throughout her career, she has earned numerous honors, and she is the recipient of a prestigious NASA Exceptional Service Medal; and

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commend Joan Higginbotham on her exemplary service to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

West

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 6, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate