

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 268

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to honor the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for its intrepid exploration of space and commend the agency for its many significant scientific discoveries; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Space exploration has ushered in new and exciting technological advances that have benefited our nation's security, safety, and communications; NASA has advanced our health-care system through the development of MRI and CAT scan technology, fetal heart monitors, programmable heart pacemakers, and other valuable medical devices; and

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commend the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on its outstanding accomplishments and extend best wishes to the agency for many successful endeavors through the Vision for Space Exploration program; and, be it further

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

Jackson, Janek

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 19, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate