

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 339

WHEREAS, The Texas Senate is pleased to recognize Anousheh Ansari, the first female private space explorer, on the occasion of her recent mission to the International Space Station; and

WHEREAS, When the Russian spaceship *Soyuz TMA-9* lifted off on September 18, 2006, for an eight-day mission to the International Space Station, Anousheh Ansari was on board; she made history by becoming the first female private space explorer and the first astronaut of Iranian descent; and

WHEREAS, Anousheh wanted more than to take a trip into space, she wanted to make a difference in the world and to inspire others, especially women and children, to study hard and overcome obstacles; she shared her experiences in space with others in a web log that was viewed more than 50 million times and was read by people from around the world; and

WHEREAS, She has a history of accomplishing her goals; as a teenager, she came to the United States unable to speak English; she dedicated herself to learning and earned a bachelor's degree in electronics and computer engineering and a master's degree in electrical engineering; and

WHEREAS, Anousheh and her family have actively promoted the latest technologies and social entrepreneurship; in 2004, they provided the funds for the first nongovernment organization to launch a reusable manned spacecraft into space; and

WHEREAS, She is a successful entrepreneur and has cofounded two business ventures; her latest technology company, Prodea Systems, helps customers realize the potential of the Internet and digital technology; and

WHEREAS, Anousheh Ansari is truly a space ambassador and her accomplishments are indeed inspirational; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby congratulate Anousheh Ansari on the successful completion of her mission and extend to her best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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

Shapiro

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 27, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate