

By: Vaught

H.R. No. 1113

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Ellen Weber of Dallas has contributed much
2 to the nation and the Lone Star State as an astronaut, scientist,
3 and academic administrator; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Weber earned her
5 bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Purdue University in
6 1984 and her doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of
7 California at Berkeley in 1988; she subsequently also received a
8 master's degree in business administration from Southern Methodist
9 University in 2002; over the course of her career as a scientist and
10 engineer, she has received a patent and published eight scientific
11 papers, and she has done important work on computer chips with Texas
12 Instruments, Applied Materials, and the SEMATECH consortium; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1992, Dr. Weber was selected to become a member of
14 the 14th NASA astronaut group; the 30th woman to fly in space and
15 one of the youngest astronauts in history, she served on two space
16 shuttle missions, logging more than 450 hours and circling the
17 earth 297 times; on her first mission, she helped to launch a \$200
18 million communications satellite, and on her second, she helped to
19 install vital equipment on the International Space Station; and

20 WHEREAS, While at NASA, Dr. Weber also participated in
21 critical launch, landing, and testing operations at the Kennedy
22 Space Center, tested shuttle flight software, and assisted in
23 developing training protocols and research facilities for the space
24 station; in addition, she has helped to commercialize space

1 technology, worked as the NASA legislative affairs liaison in
2 Washington, D.C., served as chair of the procurement board for the
3 Biotechnology Program contractor, and served on a NASA advisory
4 committee charged with counseling the agency on future
5 technologies; and

6 WHEREAS, Since leaving NASA in 2002, Dr. Weber has become
7 vice president of government affairs at The University of Texas
8 Southwestern Medical Center, where she oversees appropriations of
9 more than \$160 million in annual funding; deeply involved in the
10 community, she has served on the boards of the Museum of Natural
11 History and The Science Place, and she is a member of the Dallas
12 Committee on Foreign Relations; and

13 WHEREAS, This dynamic woman is a champion skydiver, with 12
14 silver and bronze medals from the U.S. National Skydiving
15 Championships to her credit, as well as an instrument-rated pilot,
16 an avid golfer, and a scuba diver; moreover, she is a popular
17 motivational speaker; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is proud and fortunate to claim
19 this gifted individual as a citizen, and it is a privilege to
20 recognize her continuing exceptional record of accomplishment;
21 now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
23 Legislature hereby commend Dr. Mary Ellen Weber on her many
24 impressive achievements and extend to her sincere best wishes for
25 continued success and happiness; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Dr. Weber as an expression of high regard from the

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1 Texas House of Representatives.