

By: Price

H.R. No. 1089

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, May 5, 2011, is the 50th anniversary of the first
2 flight by an American into space, and this occasion provides a
3 fitting opportunity to celebrate the role that Texans have played
4 in our nation's achievements in manned spaceflight; and

5 WHEREAS, On May 5, 1961, Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard
6 became the first U.S. citizen in space when he soared to an altitude
7 of 116 miles above the earth's surface aboard Freedom 7; formerly a
8 navy pilot, Commander Shepard had received his initial flight
9 training in Corpus Christi, and since that historic first mission,
10 more than 50 other individuals with connections to the Lone Star
11 State have been members of the NASA astronaut corps; and

12 WHEREAS, Texans who have flown in space include Gemini
13 astronauts David Scott and Edward White, Apollo astronauts Alan
14 Bean and Edgar Mitchell, and space shuttle astronauts Jeffrey
15 Ashby, John Blaha, Kenneth Cockrell, John Creighton, Robert
16 Crippen, John Fabian, William Fisher, Patrick Forrester, Bernard
17 Harris, Rick Husband, Robert Kimbrough, Paul Lockhart, and Richard
18 Mullane; in addition, Timothy Kopra and Shannon Walker served
19 aboard the International Space Station, and of the nine men and
20 women selected for the 2009 astronaut candidate class, three are
21 from Texas--Serena Aunon, Kjell Lindgren, and Mark Vande Hei; and

22 WHEREAS, Since September 1963, the Lyndon B. Johnson Space
23 Center in Houston has played an essential role in manned
24 spaceflight; it has served as mission control for the Gemini,

1 Apollo, and space shuttle programs, the home base and training
2 center for the nation's astronaut corps, and the lead center for
3 space shuttle activities and NASA's participation in the
4 International Space Station; and

5 WHEREAS, In the half-century since Alan Shepard first rose
6 above the atmosphere of our planet, countless Texans have helped to
7 make America the leader in manned spaceflight, creating a legacy of
8 achievement that will be remembered and admired as humankind
9 continues its quest to unlock the mysteries of the cosmos; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first
13 U.S. manned spaceflight and commend all the Texans, past and
14 present, who have contributed to our nation's accomplishments in
15 space exploration.