

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 3197

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Steven Moss is winning critical acclaim as co-author
2 of a new book, *We Could Not Fail: The First African Americans in the*
3 *Space Program*; and

4 WHEREAS, An associate professor in the English department at
5 Texas State Technical College in Waco, Mr. Moss first explored this
6 subject in his master's thesis, "NASA and Racial Equality in the
7 South, 1961-1968"; several years ago, he met public radio producer
8 Richard Paul, who was pursuing a similar project, and the two men
9 shared their research and turned it into a book, which has just been
10 published by The University of Texas Press; and

11 WHEREAS, The book focuses on the personal stories of 10
12 African Americans who were associated with the space program,
13 including the first black technician at Cape Canaveral, an engineer
14 who built the first extraterrestrial observatory to be installed on
15 the moon, and a black test pilot who took part in the first round of
16 astronaut training; and

17 WHEREAS, *We Could Not Fail* has received positive reviews from
18 the *New York Times*, *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, and the BBC World
19 News; *Esquire* magazine has featured it among its list of "Six Books
20 You Absolutely Can't Miss This May," and the book has also received
21 glowing comments from the director of the Smithsonian National
22 Museum of African American History and Culture and from former NASA
23 astronaut Mae Jemison; and

24 WHEREAS, With this engaging account, Professor Moss shines a

1 long overdue spotlight on a group of individuals who were both civil
2 rights pioneers and contributors to one of the greatest scientific
3 and technological efforts in human history, and he is to be
4 commended for telling this unique story; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
6 Legislature hereby congratulate Professor Steven Moss on the
7 publication of *We Could Not Fail: The First African Americans in the*
8 *Space Program* and extend to him sincere best wishes for the book's
9 success; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for Professor Moss as an expression of high regard by the
12 Texas House of Representatives.