

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A science experiment created by three students from
2 Lamar Academy in McAllen was launched into space aboard the *Dragon*
3 spacecraft on February 19, 2017, from the Kennedy Space Center in
4 Florida; and

5 WHEREAS, For the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program
6 Mission 9, seniors Sabrina Benitez, Sofia Escobar, and Juan Pablo
7 Flanagan designed an experiment to determine if tomatoes can be
8 grown on Mars; inspired by the recent discovery of water on the
9 planet, the experiment will test whether or not the soil, which is
10 thought to contain high levels of toxic magnesium perchlorate, can
11 sustain food growth; and

12 WHEREAS, The students began working on their innovative
13 project in 2015, and theirs is among only 21 proposed experiments
14 chosen to be performed on the International Space Station; these
15 bright young Texans also received the opportunity to present their
16 proposal at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in
17 Washington, D.C., during the SSEP National Conference in June 2016;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Through their ingenuity, creativity, and insight,
20 Ms. Benitez, Ms. Escobar, and Mr. Flanagan have brought great
21 credit to themselves and to their school, and they are indeed worthy
22 of recognition for this notable achievement; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
24 Legislature hereby congratulate Sabrina Benitez, Sofia Escobar,

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1 and Juan Pablo Flanagan on having their experiment flown to space
2 with the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Mission 9 and
3 extend to them sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
6 for Ms. Benitez, Ms. Escobar, and Mr. Flanagan as an expression of
7 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Canales

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 975 was adopted by the House on March 30, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House