

By: Springer

H.R. No. 2101

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Smith Graham has made valuable contributions to the
2 Graham High School Rocketeer Steers team, which placed third in the
3 StellarXplorers III National High School Space Challenge held in
4 Colorado April 6-8, 2017; and

5 WHEREAS, Established by the Air Force Association,
6 StellarXplorers helps promote student engagement in science,
7 technology, engineering, and mathematics through a challenging
8 space-system design competition; the contest began in October 2016
9 with more than 130 teams registered from 30 states and 2 overseas
10 locations, and Graham High School advanced to the national event
11 after outstanding showings in the qualifying and semifinals rounds;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In the finals, the squad faced off against nine
14 other teams, completing an exercise that involved meeting a set of
15 space-mission requirements; the Rocketeer Steers had eight hours to
16 define an optimal satellite orbit, select spacecraft components,
17 and choose rocket boosters, and the next day, they presented a
18 briefing about their solution to a panel of expert judges; and

19 WHEREAS, With his team's third-place finish, Mr. Graham
20 received an educational grant sponsored by the U.S. Air Force STEM
21 Program and the United Launch Alliance; after graduating in May
22 2017, he plans to attend Stanford University and study finance; and

23 WHEREAS, Through his fine performance on the national stage,
24 this notable young Texan has garnered the respect of his classmates

1 and fellow competitors, and the confidence, skills, and experience
2 he has gained in the StellarXplorers program will be of great use to
3 him in his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
5 Legislature hereby congratulate Smith Graham on placing third in
6 the 2017 StellarXplorers III National High School Space Challenge
7 as a member of the Graham High School Rocketeer Steers and extend to
8 him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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