

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Nicolas Saunders has made valuable contributions to
2 the Graham High School Rocketeer Steers team, which placed third in
3 the StellarXplorers III National High School Space Challenge held
4 in 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. Saunders
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 Midwestern University and study mechanical
23 engineering; and

24 WHEREAS, Through his fine performance on the national stage,

1 this notable young Texan has garnered the respect of his classmates
2 and fellow competitors, and the confidence, skills, and experience
3 he has gained in the StellarXplorers program will be of great use to
4 him in his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

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

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

Springer

H.R. No. 2104

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2104 was adopted by the House on May 25, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House