

By: Springer

H.R. No. 2104

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.