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By:  Middleton H.R. No. 223

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, NASA astronaut Christina H. Koch set a record for the longest spaceflight by a woman on February 6, 2020, when she returned from a 328-day mission aboard the International Space Station; and

WHEREAS, With her long voyage, Ms. Koch gave scientists a vital opportunity to study the long-term effects of spaceflight on female astronauts; she also participated in a number of research projects, including investigations of fresh food production, vertebral strength, kidney health, and the behavior of fire in space; in addition, she studied how a protein key in the growth of cancer crystallizes in microgravity; she and a fellow astronaut conducted the first all-female spacewalk as well; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Koch attended North Carolina State University, where she earned bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and physics and a master's degree in electrical engineering; in 2001, she graduated from the NASA Academy program at Goddard Space Flight Center; she worked in instrument development at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Laboratory for High Energy Astrophysics and at the Space Department of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory; furthermore, she was a research associate in the United States Antarctic Program and conducted remote scientific field work at Palmer Station in Antarctica, Summit Station in Greenland, and NOAA's Global Monitoring Division Baseline Observatory in Barrow, Alaska; she also served as station chief of the American Samoa Observatory; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, Ms. Koch was named one of eight members of the 21st NASA astronaut class, and she was assigned to her first spaceflight five years later; she is the recipient of numerous accolades, among them the NASA Group Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Christina Koch has made many significant contributions to our nation's space program, and her record-setting flight is a source of inspiration to people the world over; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Christina H. Koch on completing the longest spaceflight by a female astronaut and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Ms. Koch as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.