

By: Johnson

H.R. No. 137

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Our communities draw immeasurable strength from
2 individuals such as Frances Northcutt of Houston, who has
3 distinguished herself in the course of her exemplary career; and

4 WHEREAS, A graduate of The University of Texas, "Poppy"
5 Northcutt joined TRW Systems, a NASA contractor, in 1965, and she
6 accepted an assignment to work as a computational aide at Johnson
7 Space Center; admired and respected for her skill, determination,
8 and professionalism, she eventually received a promotion to the
9 technical team and became the first woman to serve in an operational
10 support role at NASA's Mission Control Center; some of her most
11 notable career highlights include calculating the return-to-Earth
12 trajectories for the Apollo 8 mission and receiving the
13 Presidential Medal of Freedom as part of the team that rescued the
14 Apollo 13 astronauts; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Northcutt continued to work as an engineer while
16 studying law at the University of Houston, and she received her
17 juris doctor in 1981; over the years, she served as the first felony
18 prosecutor in the domestic violence unit at the Harris County
19 District Attorney's Office, and she clerked for a federal appellate
20 judge in Alabama; she also prosecuted and later defended numerous
21 criminal cases, and after entering private practice, she
22 specialized in criminal trial and appellate work; today, she is a
23 referral lawyer for Jane's Due Process, a nonprofit that provides
24 legal assistance to pregnant minors; and

1 WHEREAS, A dedicated advocate for women's rights,
2 Ms. Northcutt serves as president of the Houston Area and Texas
3 State chapters of the National Organization for Women, and she is a
4 former member of the organization's national board of directors; in
5 addition, she was the founding chair of the Harris County Women's
6 Political Caucus, and she was named the first women's advocate for
7 the City of Houston; she has also served as a special conference
8 consultant for the National Women's Conference; along the way, she
9 has volunteered at polling locations, and she currently serves as
10 an election judge; and

11 WHEREAS, A renowned trailblazer for women in engineering,
12 Poppy Northcutt made history through her contributions to the
13 Apollo program, and she has benefited her fellow citizens through a
14 lifetime of purposeful endeavor that continues to inspire all those
15 who know her; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
17 Legislature hereby honor Frances "Poppy" Northcutt for her
18 professional and civic achievements and extend to her sincere best
19 wishes for continued success in all her endeavors; and, be it
20 further

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