

By: Hickland

H.R. No. 429

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Bernard A. Harris Jr. is being inducted into the
2 U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame on May 31, 2025; and

3 WHEREAS, A Temple native, Bernard Harris began dreaming of a
4 career as an astronaut as he watched the first moon landing on
5 television; he earned his bachelor's degree in biology at the
6 University of Houston and went on to earn his medical degree from
7 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in
8 1982; after completing his residency in internal medicine at the
9 Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, he pursued research opportunities related
10 to the aerospace field at the NASA Ames Research Center in
11 California and then the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Harris was admitted to the NASA Astronaut Corps
13 training group in 1990 and served as a mission specialist on the
14 space shuttle *Columbia* in 1993; two years later, he returned to
15 space as the payload commander for STS-63; he became the first
16 African American to walk in space as he and a fellow crew member
17 tested the temperature resilience of their spacesuits; during a
18 decade with NASA, he served at a number of key facilities, including
19 Moffett Federal Airfield in California and NASA Headquarters in
20 Washington, D.C.; among numerous accolades, he has received the
21 NASA Award of Merit, National Space Grant Distinguished Services
22 Award, the 2000 Horatio Alger Award, and the 2024 Presidential
23 Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as nine honorary doctorates; a
24 middle school in San Antonio was named in his honor in 2006; and

1 WHEREAS, Following his time with NASA, Dr. Harris embarked on
2 a new path in entrepreneurship, initially as vice president of
3 Spacehab, Inc.; he earned an MBA from the University of
4 Houston-Clear Lake and since 2001, he has led Versalius Ventures, a
5 venture capital firm that invests in early- to mid-stage health
6 care technologies and companies; in order to encourage minority
7 students to pursue STEM careers, he established both the ExxonMobil
8 Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp and the Dream Tour; and

9 WHEREAS, Bernard Harris has inspired innumerable people
10 through his outstanding achievements and wide-ranging
11 contributions, and he is richly deserving of this prestigious
12 honor; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
14 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Bernard A. Harris Jr. on his
15 induction into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame and that he be
16 extended sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Dr. Harris as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.