

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR HEWITT AND REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Thursday, May 5, 2016, as "NASA Day" at the state capitol and commends the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) and the Michoud Assembly Facility on the significant technical and scientific accomplishments made by them which have positively impacted both the United States and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, NASA and the state of Louisiana share a commitment to promoting the growth of a well-trained aerospace workforce and to sustaining world-class manufacturing capabilities, such as those at Michoud Assembly Facility at New Orleans, where work is underway on NASA's Space Launch System, including the heavy-lift vehicle that will usher in a new era of exploration and discovery beyond earth's orbit, in addition to the work on the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Michoud Assembly Facility at New Orleans is the home of the 170-foot tall, 78-foot wide Vertical Assembly Center, the largest spacecraft welding tool in the world that is utilized to build the Space Launch System core stages; the facility contributed the primary structure or hull of the Orion capsule, along with carbon fiber components of the Launch Abort System, Service Module for the successful Exploration Flight Test in December of 2014, and the facility is the current construction site of flight hardware for the upcoming Exploration Mission 1 which is planned for 2018; and

WHEREAS, NASA and the Louisiana Space Consortium, LaSPACE, share the common goal of fostering aerospace related, interdisciplinary science, technology, and engineering research and education at Louisiana schools, colleges, and universities in an effort to promote STEM education and jobs in the aerospace industry within Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, NASA and the state of Louisiana, in 2012, signed a five-year extension on a \$62 million agreement to continue supporting the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing, which is located at Michoud and provides research and advanced manufacturing technology for use in aerospace and commercial markets; and

WHEREAS, NASA's Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer program stimulates technological innovation by encouraging small, high-tech companies, particularly minority and disadvantaged businesses, to partner with NASA to help meet its research and development needs in key technological areas and has invested \$1.8 million in nine Louisiana companies; and

WHEREAS, NASA spinoffs have benefitted Louisiana by facilitating the decontamination of polluted soil and groundwater, providing forecasting models for storm surge, weather, and fishing hotspots, enabling the remote, high-speed transfer of digital data, and lowering costs and reducing manufacturing time for the prosthetics industry; and

WHEREAS, NASA created the Gulf of Mexico Initiative to enhance the region's ability to recover from the devastating hurricanes of 2005 and to plan for a sustainable and prosperous future through the use of NASA Earth Science observations and research; NASA has invested \$19 million through Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences to assist Louisiana's citizens throughout the region to better understand the environment and make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Louisiana are exceedingly proud of their state's critical role in the American space program and of the tremendous advances in space exploration and scientific progress its cooperation with NASA has produced.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Thursday, May 5, 2016, as "NASA Day" at the state capitol and does hereby commend NASA and the Michoud Assembly Facility for their remarkable scientific and technological contributions to the state of Louisiana and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the administrator of NASA.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES