

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY SENATOR HEWITT

A RESOLUTION

To designate Thursday, May 4, 2017, as "NASA Day" at the state capitol and to extol the accomplishments of NASA and the remarkable technical and scientific contributions made to the state of Louisiana and the United States of America through the efforts of the distinguished engineers, technicians, management, and support personnel working at the Michoud Assembly Facility.

WHEREAS, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans have been instrumental in the success of the United States Space Program during the previous five decades, manufacturing the Saturn rockets for the Apollo program and the external tanks for the Space Shuttle program from the 1970s until the program was retired in 2011; and

WHEREAS, NASA and the state of Louisiana share a commitment to promoting the growth of a well-trained aerospace workforce and sustaining the world-class manufacturing capabilities at Michoud Assembly Facility where NASA is building the Space Launch System (SLS) and the Orion Multipurpose Crew Vehicle that will usher in a new era of exploration and discovery, taking mankind further than we have been before, during the maiden flight in the next two years; and

WHEREAS, NASA and the Louisiana Space Consortium (LaSPACE) share the common goal of fostering aerospace-related, interdisciplinary, science, technology, and engineering research in Louisiana schools, colleges, and universities to continue promoting STEM education and jobs in the aerospace industry within Louisiana and inspiring a new generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers to carry on NASA's mission of discovery; and

WHEREAS, NASA and the state of Louisiana in 2012 signed a five-year extension on an agreement, an investment worth \$62 million, 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 (SBIR/STTR) 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 technology areas, investing more than \$2 million to date in nine Louisiana companies; and

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

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Louisiana are indeed exceedingly proud of their state's critical role in the United States Space Program and the tremendous advances in space exploration and scientific progression its cooperation with NASA has produced.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Thursday, May 4, 2017, as "NASA Day" at the state capitol and does hereby extol the accomplishments of NASA and the remarkable technical and scientific contributions made to the state of Louisiana and the United States of America through the efforts of the distinguished engineers, technicians, management, and support personnel working at the Michoud Assembly Facility, all of whom have achieved distinction beyond measure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to center director Todd May.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE