

By: Cyrier

H.R. No. 518

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The nation lost a pioneer of its space program with  
2 the death of former Apollo 17 commander Eugene Andrew Cernan of  
3 Piney Point Village on January 16, 2017, at the age of 82; and

4           WHEREAS, Gene Cernan was born in Chicago on March 14, 1934, to  
5 Andrew and Rose Cernan; he entered the Navy ROTC program as a  
6 student at Purdue University, and after receiving his bachelor's  
7 degree in electrical engineering, he became a test pilot and was  
8 assigned to Attack Squadrons 26 and 112 at the Miramar, California,  
9 Naval Air Station; subsequently, he earned his master's degree in  
10 aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School; and

11           WHEREAS, One of 14 astronauts selected by NASA in 1963, Gene  
12 Cernan piloted the Gemini 9 mission three years later and became the  
13 second American to walk in space; he went on to serve as the lunar  
14 module pilot for the Apollo 10 mission, which descended to within  
15 eight nautical miles of the moon's surface and sent the first live  
16 television pictures from lunar orbit; in 1972, he commanded Apollo  
17 17, the final moon mission, and with his crewmate, spent more than  
18 three days on the lunar surface; they completed three remarkable  
19 excursions to craters and the Taurus-Littrow mountains, collecting  
20 250 pounds of rock and soil samples; when he climbed back into the  
21 module to depart, Captain Cernan became the last human to leave  
22 footprints on the moon, and for the rest of his life, he continued  
23 to advocate powerfully for the renewal of missions to other worlds;  
24 and

1           WHEREAS, From 1973 until 1976, Captain Cernan assisted in the  
2 development of the joint U.S.-Soviet Union Apollo-Soyuz mission; he  
3 retired in 1976 and became executive vice president of Coral  
4 Petroleum before establishing his own consulting company, the  
5 Cernan Corporation; in addition, he coanchored ABC-TV coverage of  
6 the space shuttle program and served as chair of Johnson  
7 Engineering Corporation; he was inducted into the U.S. Space Hall  
8 of Fame and received a host of other accolades, among them the Navy  
9 Distinguished Flying Cross, an honorary doctorate of engineering  
10 from Purdue University, and the 2016 Neil Armstrong Outstanding  
11 Achievement Award from the National Aviation Hall of Fame; and

12           WHEREAS, Captain Cernan shared a fulfilling marriage with his  
13 wife, Jan Nanna Cernan, and he was the proud father of Tracy Cernan  
14 Woolie, stepfather of Kelly Nanna Taff and Danielle Nanna Ellis,  
15 and the grandfather of nine; and

16           WHEREAS, Gene Cernan made lasting contributions to our nation  
17 and to humankind through his historic role in the space program, and  
18 his accomplishments will remain a source of tremendous inspiration  
19 in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Eugene Andrew  
22 Cernan and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing;  
23 and, be it further

24           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gene  
27 Cernan.