



News release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Galveston County Commissioners resolve to “Bring the Shuttle Home”

BAY AREA HOUSTON, TEXAS – On Sept. 8, 2010, the Commissioners Court of Galveston County, Texas, issued a resolution designating September 2010 as “Bring the Shuttle Home Month” throughout Galveston County. In 2011, after 30 incredible years of service to the people not only of this country but of the world, as well, NASA’s Shuttle Program is slated to come to a close. Of the three remaining shuttles, two will be retired to find permanent homes at yet undesignated locations in the nation. The third shuttle will be housed at the National Air & Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va., near Washington Dulles International Airport.

Houston is the home of human spaceflight. Astronauts train here. They and their families live here. They have become as integral a part of the community as Houston’s bayous, its Livestock Show & Rodeo, its amateur and professional sports teams. Just as Houstonians’ cars and trucks have provided the mobility that has helped this city to become the fourth largest in the nation, the shuttles have provided the means for our astronauts to take the next evolutionary step in exploration and discovery.

In recognition of the importance of bringing a shuttle home to Houston, the resolution states, in part,

“WHEREAS, Space Center Houston, the official Visitor Center to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, has inspired more than 3,900,000 children and provided *intelligent fun* for over 13,000,000 visitors; its Starship Gallery showcases unique space artifacts including the largest collection of Moon Rocks on public display, a Lunar rover, the original Mercury, Gemini and Apollo 17 ‘the last man on the moon’ flight capsules, Skylab and an original section of Mission Control console; and

WHEREAS, Galveston County Commissioners Court concludes that no other location can approach the unique and singular offering of the critical mass of experience and infrastructure as Space Center Houston.”

The resolution was signed by Galveston County Judge James D. Yarbrough, Commissioners Patrick F. Doyle, Precinct 1, Bryan M. Lamb, Precinct 2, Stephen D. Holmes, Precinct 3, Kenneth Clark, Precinct 4, and Galveston County Clerk Mary Ann Daigle. Commissioner Clark presented the framed resolution to Richard Allen, president and CEO of Space Center Houston, on Sept. 15, with Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, also in attendance.

Bringing a shuttle home to Houston is not only a logical choice, it also would prove to be an economic stimulus far into the future. It is projected that the shuttle attraction at Space Center Houston has the potential to annually increase the regional economy by \$45 million, plus generate another \$29 million in business value and create more than 750 jobs in the area. Numerous people and organizations have engaged to secure Houston as one of the permanent homes for the space shuttle including [Space Center Houston](#), [NASA Johnson Space Center](#), [Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau](#), business and civic leaders, the [Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership](#) and its 270 members, engineers, scientists and astronauts, and our elected officials, including Texas members of the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and our Texas State Legislature.

For more information on this important initiative, visit www.bringtheshuttlehome.com.

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Galveston County Commissioner Ken Clark, Precinct 4, holds a framed resolution declaring September 2010 as “Bring the Shuttle Home Month” in Galveston County. Clark presented the document on Sept. 15 to Richard Allen, left, president and CEO of Space Center Houston, with Bob Mitchell, president, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, in attendance, as well. (Photo courtesy of Space Center Houston)

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include more than 260 investor companies, business professionals, local governments, and educational institutions encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, and the Port of Houston Authority. Visit www.bayareahouston.com.

Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It is a State of Texas funded initiative designed to transfer the knowledge and technology of the U.S. Space Program to small businesses to solve technical challenges they are unable to solve themselves. Visit www.spacetechnologies.com/bahep.