



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**A Message from the Governor
to the People of Texas:**

WHEREAS, on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. The entire world was captivated by that moment, envisioning the era of accomplishments to come. Americans everywhere took pride in the fact that the United States was the first nation to accomplish this grand mission, ushering in a new age of exploration and discovery;

WHEREAS, NASA has long inspired the next generation of explorers and scientists by example and through a variety of initiatives, encouraging them to pursue professional careers critical to our nation's future excellence. Renowned are programs such as the Texas Aerospace Scholars, the NASA Explorer Schools and the Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers. Institutions of higher education across the Lone Star State have benefited immeasurably from the more than \$70 million they have received in NASA grants and contracts;

WHEREAS, NASA positively impacts our economy by employing nearly 3,000 civil servants and approximately 12,000 contractors at the Johnson Space Center, and by awarding almost \$4 billion worth of NASA contracts annually;

WHEREAS, NASA has played a landmark role in technological advancement, leading to the creation of various products and systems that have enhanced our national security while saving and improving lives. Countless Americans have benefited from wide ranging advances, among them MRI and CAT scan technology that evolved from NASA imaging programs; cellular communications that have been made clearer and better through the use of NASA satellites; fetal heart monitors, developed from technology to measure airflow over the Shuttle's wings; and programmable heart pacemakers developed from satellite technology;

WHEREAS, NASA's vision for the future is bold and exciting. The Vision for Space Exploration sets NASA on a course to once again set foot on the Moon, but this time as a stepping-stone to Mars and beyond. This is a mission of discovery, seeking answers to questions we have asked for generations. It embraces the excellence of the past and, at the same time, sets a course of accomplishment for the future;

WHEREAS, I encourage all Texans to pay tribute to NASA for its rich history and its many contributions to science and technological advancement, proudly reinforcing to us all the best of Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, ask all Texans to join me in sharing our recognition of NASA. Standing in the early years of the 21st century, our commitment to exploration and discovery remains strong, encouraged by the limitless potential that awaits. Let us all proudly embrace

NASA AND THE VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION



In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
17th day of July, 2004.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas