

HR 9077

2010

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing Joseph Michael Acaba, Mission
3 Specialist Educator of Space Shuttle Discovery mission
4 STS-119.

5
6 WHEREAS, Joseph Michael "Joe" Acaba was born on May 17,
7 1967, in Inglewood, California, graduated from Anaheim's
8 Esperanza High School, and received his bachelor's degree in
9 geology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and
10 his master's degree in geology from the University of Arizona,
11 and

12 WHEREAS, following his postgraduate studies, Joe Acaba
13 served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, where he
14 attained the rank of Sergeant, and later spent 2 years in the
15 United States Peace Corps training over 300 teachers in the
16 Dominican Republic in modern teaching methodologies, and

17 WHEREAS, following his service in the United States Peace
18 Corps, Joe Acaba moved to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and
19 served as Island Manager of Caribbean Marine Research at Lee
20 Stocking Island, and

21 WHEREAS, upon his return to the United States, Joe Acaba
22 moved to Florida where he became the Shoreline Revegetation
23 Coordinator in Vero Beach and taught science and math for 1 year
24 at Melbourne High School and for 4 years at Dunnellon Middle
25 School, and

26 WHEREAS, on May 6, 2004, Joe Acaba and 10 others were
27 selected from 99 applicants by NASA as candidates for NASA

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28 Astronaut Training Group 1, becoming the first person of Puerto
29 Rican heritage to be named as a NASA astronaut candidate, and

30 WHEREAS, Joe Acaba was assigned the position of Mission
31 Specialist Educator of Space Shuttle Discovery mission STS-119
32 that was launched on March 15, 2009, at 7:43 p.m., and

33 WHEREAS, on March 20, 2009, Joe Acaba provided support to
34 the first STS-119 mission spacewalk, and

35 WHEREAS, on March 21, 2009, Joe Acaba performed a spacewalk
36 in which he helped to successfully unfurl the final "wings" of
37 the solar array that augmented power to the International Space
38 Station as it prepared to double its capacity to house six
39 future astronauts, and

40 WHEREAS, on March 28, 2009, the Space Shuttle Discovery and
41 its crew of seven, including Joe Acaba, safely touched down at
42 NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

43

44 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
45 Florida:

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47 That the House of Representatives congratulates Joseph
48 Michael Acaba for his outstanding achievements and recognizes
49 and commends his service as Mission Specialist Educator of Space
50 Shuttle Discovery mission STS-119.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
52 presented to Joseph Michael Acaba as a tangible token of the
53 sentiments expressed herein.