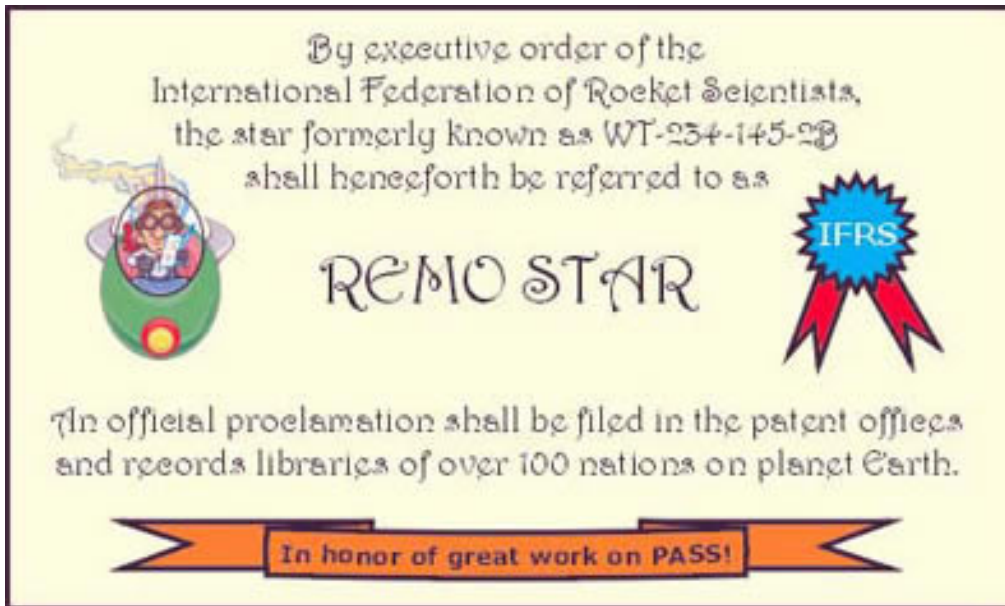


Louisiana PASS



What's in a Name?

Would you like to have a star named after you? Many people would, and they're willing to pay for the privilege—anywhere from \$20 to over \$100. For this payment, you will receive an official letter and a certificate, along with the coordinates of your namesake star.

However, what many consumers don't realize is that the stars belong to no one, so no one can sell them or sell the rights to them. The star named after you could be named after a hundred other people; there's no way for companies that sell stars to check to see if a star has already been "sold."

For more information about how stars are named, click on one of these links:

[International Astronomical Union](#)

[So You Want to Buy a Star](#)

Note: *The links above are to websites outside the Louisiana PASS system. These links are not maintained by the Louisiana Department of Education and may not always function properly. To report a problem with one of these links, please send an e-mail to the PASS Help Desk at help@LouisianaPASS.org.*

The only organization that is authorized to give stars official names, the actual names that are used by astronomers, is the International Astronomical Union (IAU). The IAU does not name stars after people. Instead, the IAU uses standard naming procedures agreed to by scientists all over the world.

[To return to the Information Station to check your scores or to take another test, click here.](#)

To Information Station

