

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4158

To confirm full ownership rights for certain United States astronauts to artifacts from the astronauts' space missions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2012

Mr. HALL (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. CLARKE of Michigan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To confirm full ownership rights for certain United States astronauts to artifacts from the astronauts' space missions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEFINITION OF ARTIFACT.**

4 For purposes of this Act, the term “artifact” means,
5 with respect to an astronaut described in section 2(a), any
6 expendable item utilized in missions for the Mercury,
7 Gemini, or Apollo programs through the completion of the
8 Apollo-Soyuz Test Project not expressly required to be re-

1 turned to the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
2 tion at the completion of the mission and other expend-
3 able, disposable, or personal-use items utilized by such as-
4 tronaut during participation in any such program. The
5 term includes personal logs, checklists, flight manuals,
6 prototype and proof test articles used in training, and dis-
7 posable flight hardware salvaged from jettisoned lunar
8 modules. The term does not include lunar rocks and other
9 lunar material.

10 **SEC. 2. FULL OWNERSHIP OF ARTIFACTS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—A United States astronaut who
12 participated in any of the Mercury, Gemini, or Apollo pro-
13 grams through the completion of the Apollo-Soyuz Test
14 Project, who received an artifact during his participation
15 in any such program, shall have full ownership of and
16 clear title to such artifact.

17 (b) NO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CLAIM.—The Fed-
18 eral Government shall have no claim or right to ownership,
19 control, or use of any artifact in possession of an astro-
20 naut as described in subsection (a) or any such artifact
21 that was subsequently transferred, sold, or assigned to a
22 third party by an astronaut described in subsection (a).

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