

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 4909

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to each of the crew members of the Artemis II Mission in recognition of their contributions in advancing the human exploration of space to new heights, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2026

Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. SHEEHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to each of the crew members of the Artemis II Mission in recognition of their contributions in advancing the human exploration of space to new heights, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Artemis II Congres-  
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The crew members of the Artemis II Mis-  
2           sion traveled approximately 252,756 miles, or  
3           406,771 kilometers, from Earth, representing the  
4           farthest that humans have ever traveled from Earth.

5           (2) The Artemis II Mission—

6           (A) was the first crewed mission to travel  
7           beyond low Earth orbit and around the Moon  
8           since the Apollo 17 Mission in December 1972;

9           (B) resulted in the first ever real-time,  
10          high-definition lunar images taken from human-  
11          worn digital devices, including of Earth, a solar  
12          eclipse, and the lunar surface, which—

13                 (i) were taken mid-mission;

14                 (ii) were the first lunar images taken  
15                 by crew members in 53 years; and

16                 (iii) included rare images of the  
17                 Moon’s far side from close range;

18          (C) represented the first crewed launch of  
19          the Orion spacecraft of the National Aero-  
20          nautics and Space Administration (referred to  
21          in this section as “NASA”) on the Space  
22          Launch System, marking the inaugural piloted  
23          flight of this deep-space system;

24          (D) marked the first ship-to-ship voice call  
25          between a lunar mission and the International

1 Space Station, representing milestone inter-  
2 orbital communication;

3 (E) confirmed the viability of Orion’s life  
4 support, navigation, propulsion, and reentry  
5 systems, including through the use of  
6 translunar injection burns, in deep-space condi-  
7 tions; and

8 (F) laid the groundwork for future lunar  
9 landings and missions to Mars, in partnership  
10 with United States industry.

11 (3) Reid Wiseman—

12 (A) served as the commander of the  
13 Artemis II Mission, which resumed human ex-  
14 ploration around the Moon;

15 (B) is a naval aviator who has now spent  
16 175 days in space—

17 (i) as part of the Artemis II Mission;

18 and

19 (ii) as a flight engineer aboard the  
20 International Space Station for 165 days  
21 in 2014, during which he—

22 (I) spent 13 hours completing 2  
23 spacewalks; and

24 (II) helped conduct more than  
25 300 scientific experiments;

1 (C) previously served as chief of NASA's  
2 Astronaut Office; and

3 (D) is the most experienced astronaut to  
4 command a crewed lunar mission.

5 (4) Victor Glover—

6 (A) served as the pilot for the Artemis II  
7 Mission, which was his second time piloting a  
8 new spacecraft on an operational mission after  
9 having served, in 2018, as the pilot for the  
10 SpaceX Crew-1 aboard the Dragon Resilience;

11 (B) is a naval aviator and test pilot who  
12 has now spent 178 days in space across 2 mis-  
13 sions;

14 (C) completed 4 spacewalks during his 168  
15 days aboard the International Space Station;  
16 and

17 (D) is the first person of color, and the  
18 first Black astronaut, to travel beyond low  
19 Earth orbit and around the Moon.

20 (5) Christina Koch—

21 (A) served as a mission specialist for the  
22 Artemis II Mission;

23 (B) holds the record for the single longest  
24 spaceflight by a woman at 328 days;

1 (C) participated in the first all-female  
2 spacewalk while aboard the International Space  
3 Station; and

4 (D) was the first woman to travel beyond  
5 low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

6 (6) Jeremy Hansen, a mission specialist for the  
7 Artemis II Mission, representing the Canadian  
8 Space Agency, was the first Canadian, and the first  
9 astronaut from outside the United States, to travel  
10 beyond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

11 (7) As the first human mission around the  
12 Moon in this millennium, the Artemis II Mission was  
13 notable for many other firsts, including the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 (A) Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, the  
16 launch director of the Artemis II Mission, was  
17 the first woman to serve as a NASA launch di-  
18 rector and the first female launch director for  
19 a crewed mission beyond low Earth orbit and  
20 around the Moon.

21 (B) Andre Douglas, a NASA astronaut,  
22 and Jenni Gibbons, a Canadian Space Agency  
23 astronaut, were the first individuals to serve as  
24 backup crew members for an Artemis mission  
25 beyond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

1           (C) Jacki Mahaffey was the first female  
2 chief training officer for a crewed mission be-  
3 yond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

4           (D) Amy Dill, a flight controller for the  
5 Artemis II Mission, served as the first female  
6 capsule communicator for a crewed mission be-  
7 yond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

8           (E) Lili Villarreal served as the first fe-  
9 male landing and recovery director for a crewed  
10 mission beyond low Earth orbit and around the  
11 Moon.

12           (F) Kelsey Young, Angela Garcia, and  
13 Trevor Graff were the first science officers to  
14 serve at NASA's Mission Control Center in  
15 Houston.

16 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.**

17           (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
18 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
19 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
20 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold  
21 medal of appropriate design to each of the crew members  
22 of the Artemis II Mission, in recognition of their contribu-  
23 tions in advancing the human exploration of space to new  
24 heights.

25           (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the presen-  
2           tation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of  
3           the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-  
4           retary”) shall strike gold medals with suitable em-  
5           blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by  
6           the Secretary.

7           (2) REQUIREMENT.—Each gold medal struck  
8           under paragraph (1) shall depict the 4-astronaut  
9           crew of the Artemis II Mission.

10 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

11           The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
12           bronze of the gold medals struck pursuant to section 3  
13           under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
14           a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
15           materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

16 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

17           (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
18           ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
19           51 of title 31, United States Code.

20           (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
21           5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals  
22           struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
23           items.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
2 **SALE.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is  
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
5 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-  
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant  
7 to this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
10 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
11 Enterprise Fund.

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