

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

# H. R. 912

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2004

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation

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## AN ACT

To authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish an awards program in honor of Charles “Pete” Conrad, astronaut and space scientist, for recognizing the discoveries made by amateur astronomers of asteroids with near-Earth orbit trajectories.

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 “Charles ‘Pete’ Conrad  
5 Astronomy Awards Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7        For the purposes of this Act—

8            (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-  
9            ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space  
10           Administration;

11           (2) the term “amateur astronomer” means an  
12           individual whose employer does not provide any  
13           funding, payment, or compensation to the individual  
14           for the observation of asteroids and other celestial  
15           bodies, and does not include any individual employed  
16           as a professional astronomer;

17           (3) the term “Minor Planet Center” means the  
18           Minor Planet Center of the Smithsonian Astro-  
19           physical Observatory;

20           (4) the term “near-Earth asteroid” means an  
21           asteroid with a perihelion distance of less than 1.3  
22           Astronomical Units from the Sun; and

23           (5) the term “Program” means the Charles  
24           “Pete” Conrad Astronomy Awards Program estab-  
25           lished under section 3.

1 **SEC. 3. PETE CONRAD ASTRONOMY AWARD PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish  
3 the Charles “Pete” Conrad Astronomy Awards Program.

4 (b) AWARDS.—The Administrator shall make awards  
5 under the Program based on the recommendations of the  
6 Minor Planet Center.

7 (c) AWARD CATEGORIES.—The Administrator shall  
8 make one annual award, unless there are no eligible dis-  
9 coveries or contributions, for each of the following cat-  
10 egories:

11 (1) The amateur astronomer or group of ama-  
12 teur astronomers who in the preceding calendar year  
13 discovered the intrinsically brightest near-Earth as-  
14 teroid among the near-Earth asteroids that were dis-  
15 covered during that year by amateur astronomers or  
16 groups of amateur astronomers.

17 (2) The amateur astronomer or group of ama-  
18 teur astronomers who made the greatest contribu-  
19 tion to the Minor Planet Center’s mission of cata-  
20 loguing near-Earth asteroids during the preceding  
21 year.

22 (d) AWARD AMOUNT.—An award under the Program  
23 shall be in the amount of \$3,000.

24 (e) GUIDELINES.—(1) No individual who is not a cit-  
25 izen or permanent resident of the United States at the

1 time of his discovery or contribution may receive an award  
2 under this Act.

3 (2) The decisions of the Administrator in making  
4 awards under this Act are final.

5 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—From  
6 sums otherwise authorized to be appropriated, there are  
7 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
8 essary to carry out this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives March 3,  
2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*