

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

# H. CON. RES. 448

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2006

Received

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the completion of the Space Shuttle's second Return-to-Flight mission.

Whereas, on July 4, 2006, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration performed a successful launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery;

Whereas this mission, known as STS-121, marks the second Return-to-Flight mission;

Whereas the crew of the Discovery consisted of Colonel Steve Lindsey, Commander Mark Kelly, Piers Sellers, Ph.D,

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Fossum, Commander Lisa Nowak, Stephanie Wilson, and Thomas Reiter;

Whereas the STS–121 mission tested Space Shuttle safety improvements, building on findings from Discovery’s flight last year, including a redesign of the Space Shuttle’s External Tank foam insulation, in-flight inspection of the shuttle’s heat shield, and improved imagery during launch;

Whereas the STS–121 mission re-supplied the International Space Station by delivering more than 28,000 pounds of equipment and supplies, as well as added a third crew member to the International Space Station;

Whereas, due to the overall success of the launch and on-orbit operations, the mission was able to be extended from 12 to 13 days, allowing for an additional space walk to the two originally scheduled;

Whereas the success of the STS–121 mission is a tribute to the skills and dedication of the Space Shuttle crew, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and its industrial partners;

Whereas all Americans benefit from the technological advances gained through the Space Shuttle program; and

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration plays a vital role in sustaining America’s preeminence in space: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2   *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the Na-  
 3   tional Aeronautics and Space Administration be com-  
 4   mended for—

