

local taxes and regulations, knowing the tribe has to go through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

OHIO

A number of mayors state lawmakers and others been discussing ways to bring gambling to Ohio. Some have been negotiating with the Eastern Shawnee of Oklahoma, which claims historic ties to the state. The mayor of one town testified before Congress recently, saying that a tribal casino complex would bring new jobs and money to an area hard hit with the loss of manufacturing jobs. However, Gov. Bob Taft has said he opposes gambling.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NASA
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005". I am joined as cosponsors by all of my Democratic colleagues on the Science Committee, and I hope that other Members on both sides of the aisle will join us once they have had a chance to review the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation being introduced today provides an authorization for NASA that is credible, practical, and conferenceable. It recognizes that NASA has been, is, and should continue to be a multi-mission agency with significant R&D activities in science, aeronautics, and human space flight. This bill makes it clear that we support the President's goal of making exploration beyond low Earth orbit the long-term objective of NASA's human space flight program, and that we believe it is important to move forward aggressively to develop the Crew Exploration Vehicle and its associated launch vehicle. At the same time, it should be clear that we also believe that NASA's aeronautics R&D program needs to be revitalized because of its benefits to the nation's economy, national security, and quality of life. Similarly, NASA's science programs should also be supported because they offer the potential of dramatically increasing our knowledge of the Earth, the solar system, and the rest of the universe, as well as providing the opportunity for applications that can benefit life back here on Earth.

As a result, the legislation recognizes the need to ensure that the productive balance that has existed between NASA's major program areas is protected. To enforce that balance, the bill provides clear funding guidance, a restructuring of NASA's accounts into human-space-flight and nonhuman-space-flight accounts, flexible "firewalls" between NASA's major accounts, and consultation requirements in the event changes to the existing balance are contemplated.

Let me mention a few of the other main features of the bill. It provides a three-year authorization and funding guidance for NASA's major programs. Funding guidance contained in the bill includes:

Funding for a Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission.

Additional funding for the James Webb Space Telescope to compensate for the impact of the delay in selecting a launch vehicle

for the mission, as well as for other programmatic challenges, so that this high priority mission can remain on track.

Funding for university research restored to FY 2005 levels.

Funding for the Earth Science program's Glory mission restored.

Additional funding for the high priority Earth Science program's Global Precipitation Mission (GPM).

Additional funding to allow ongoing, scientifically productive spacecraft missions such as Voyager and Ulysses to continue.

Funding preserved for fundamental, applied, and commercial life sciences and other micro-gravity research not tied to the human exploration program.

Aeronautics funding restored to the FY 2004 level and the decline contained in the President's five-year budget for aeronautics reversed.

Increased funding for education, including for the National Space Grant program.

Full funding for the Space Shuttle program.

Full funding for the International Space Station program.

Human Exploration funding to allow accelerated development of the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) and its associated launch vehicle as well as for further implementation planning for NASA's human exploration program.

Funding provided for promoting technology transfer initiatives at NASA.

Some of the policy provisions contained in the bill include:

Ensuring that if the overall NASA budget is cut, the authorized levels for each of NASA's major programs would be cut proportionately, so no one area would suffer disproportionate cuts.

Having NASA prioritize its science programs and periodically assess their performance.

Having NASA develop a plan to ensure the continued health of the critically important Deep Space Network.

Directing NASA to schedule a Hubble servicing mission once NASA has successfully returned the Shuttle to flight.

Establishing a national policy for aeronautics R&D and initiating technology programs to advance the aeronautical state-of-the-art in key areas.

Directing NASA to honor its international obligations to the International Space Station program.

Strongly encouraging NASA to have a goal of retiring the Space Shuttle in 2010 and initiating Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) operations, but directing NASA not to retire all of the Shuttles until the CEV is operational unless the Administrator determines continued Shuttle operations would not be safe.

Establishing priorities for NASA's Human Exploration program for the next three years—namely, development of the CEV and its associated launch vehicle, and definition of the overall exploration architecture and prioritized implementation plan.

Directing NASA to work to improve access to its educational programs by minorities and economically disadvantaged students.

Directing NASA to seek an independent review of its educational programs and the extent to which they are effective in achieving STEM goals.

Establishing a prize program at NASA to encourage needed technology developments.

Encouraging NASA to aid in the development of the commercial space sector.

Directing NASA to develop a workforce strategy for its civil service workforce, seek input from the affected employees, and not undertake RIFs until Congress has had a chance to review NASA's plans.

Directing NASA to develop a financing policy for its test facilities that protects key national assets.

Providing NASA with enhanced use lease authority at its Centers.

Limiting off-shoring of contracts for the procurement of goods and services.

Having the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP) take on additional responsibilities, namely monitoring NASA's long-term compliance with the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's (CAIB) safety recommendations.

Establishing an independent commission to evaluate the safety of the International Space Station.

Providing a framework for establishing an independent commission in the event of a future human space flight accident.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the bill that we are introducing today is intended to provide clear Congressional direction to NASA with respect to priorities and balance. At the same time, it is intended to be flexible enough to accommodate changing circumstances and emergencies. Not everyone will agree with every provision in this bill—but that's been the case with every significant piece of legislation that I can remember being considered by this body. That is what the legislative process is all about. At the same time, I believe that the NASA Authorization Act of 2005 does provide a credible, practical, and conferenceable vehicle for providing needed guidance to NASA for the next three years.

NASA is an agency that has been committed to excellence in all of its areas of endeavor. It truly is a workforce of "rocket scientists". The legislation I am introducing today provides the policy and funding guidance that will position NASA for a productive and exciting future, and I hope that we can move it towards speedy enactment.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by stating a sentiment that I know is shared by all Members. Namely, our thoughts and prayers are with all of the members of the NASA family as they prepare to return the Space Shuttle to flight, and in particular we wish the crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* well on their upcoming journey.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on June 30th, I met with Governor Bob Riley and attended the Base Realignment and Closure Commission Regional hearing in Atlanta, Georgia in support of Alabama's military installations. As a result, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 345–362. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 345: "no." An amendment by Jim Davis to prohibit use of funds in the bill to enforce regulations preventing family travel to Cuba. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 346: "no." An amendment by Barbara Lee to prohibit use of funds in the bill

to enforce regulations preventing travel to Cuba by academic institutions. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 347: "no." An amendment by Bernie Sanders to prohibit use of funds in the bill to provide for the competitive sourcing of flight service stations. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 348: "no." An amendment by Charlie Rangel to prohibit the use of funds from being made available to implement, administer, or enforce the economic embargo of Cuba, except that the foregoing limitation does not apply to the administration of a tax or tariff. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 349: "yes." An amendment by Mark Souder to prohibit the use of funds to enforce the DC gun ban. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 350: "yes." An amendment by Scott Garrett to prohibit the use of funds to enforce the Supreme Court ruling about eminent domain. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 351: "no." An amendment by Rosa DeLauro to prohibit use of funds in the bill to enter into any contract with an incorporated entity where such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda, Barbados, the Cayman Islands, Antigua, or Panama. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 352: "yes." An amendment by Joel Hefley to reduce the overall level of spending by one percent. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 353: "yes." An amendment by Carolyn Kilpatrick to prohibit the use of funds from being made available to recommend approval of the sale of Unocal Corporation to CNOOC Ltd. of China. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 354: "no." An amendment by David Obey requiring testimony before Congressional committees and communication with Members of Congress, witnesses will give frank and complete answers to all questions. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 355: "no." An amendment by Sherrod Brown to prohibit the use of funds from being used by the Council of Economic Advisers to produce an Economic Report of the President regarding the average cost of developing and introducing a new prescription drug to the market at \$800 million or more. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 356: "no." An amendment by Nydia Velasquez to prohibit funds made available in the Act from being used by the General Services Administration to carry out the eTravel Service program. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 357: "no." An amendment by Chris Van Hollen to prohibit funds made available in the Act from being used to implement the revision of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 made on May 29, 2003. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 358: "yes." Final passage of the Transportation-Treasury Appropriations bill.

Procedural and Suspension Votes

Rollcall Vote 359: "yes." Previous question vote

Rollcall Vote 360: "yes." Suspension vote expressing the sense of the House that a Chinese state-owned energy company exercising control of critical United States energy infrastructure and energy production capacity could take action that would threaten to impair the national security of the United States.

Rollcall Vote 361: "yes." Suspension vote expressing the grave disapproval of the House of Representatives regarding the majority

opinion of the Supreme Court in the case of Kelo et al. v. City of New London et al. that nullifies the protections afforded private property owners in the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

Rollcall Vote 362: "yes." Suspension vote providing supplemental funding for VA health care.

TO HONOR JEFFREY C. KROON ON HIS 20 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated public service of Jeffrey Kroon, resident of Chautauqua County city of Jamestown, upon receiving the Boys and Girls Clubs of America National Service to Youth Award.

Kroon was presented with the award at the Boys and Girls Club awards night, for his 20 years of devoted service to the organization. He began working with the Jamestown club in 1985 as an employment coordinator for teens. Within 5 years he became the Boys and Girls Club of Jamestown assistant director, a position that he still holds.

In addition to the work he does with the Boys and Girls Club, Kroon has also been a volunteer with the Jamestown Area Youth Soccer League for the past 22 years. For 15 of the past 22 years Kroon has served as president.

Along with receiving the National Service to Youth Award, Kroon was also given the National Professional Service Award for extreme devoted service to boys and girls.

Kroon is a very dedicated man whose commitment and service is highly appreciated at the Jamestown Boys and Girls Club. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity to honor him here today.

HONORING AND THANKING ALAN LEMONS AND CHADO JACOBS

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank two men from Hudson, Colorado, Alan Lemons and Chado Jacobs, for their selflessness and heroic acts that helped save the lives of two other fellow Coloradans, Shalyn and Zach Roach on Saturday, June 18, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, on that same day I was witness to an event of true heroism and of God's great intervention. That Saturday, I had the honor of joining some of the tremendously dedicated and talented group of professionals who make up the St. Anthony Hospital's Flight for Life team of Colorado.

It just so happened that on this Saturday morning, the Flight for Life air ambulance was called to the accident site in Hudson, Colorado where Shalyn and Zach Roach had been in a car accident that led to their car being trapped upside down, underwater, in an irrigation canal.

As the car lay upside down, partially submerged in water, the situation was obviously very dire for the Roaches. However, thanks to Alan Lemons and Chado Jacobs, Shalyn and Zach Roach are still with us today.

After witnessing the accident, Mr. Lemons and Mr. Jacobs immediately rushed into the canal and, putting their own personal safety aside, went underwater in order to pull the Roaches from their submerged vehicle and perform CPR on Shalyn.

Mr. Speaker, the term "hero" means different things to different people. To some, people who have fought in wars for our country are heroes, and I think that's a very appropriate description. For others, a hero may be a former teacher or coach, or maybe even a professional athlete. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the actions of these two men from Hudson, Colorado are nothing short of heroic. Before the Flight for Life crew arrived on the scene of the accident, these men acted without concern for themselves and helped save two lives of people they had never met before.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it's with great appreciation and honor that I speak from the floor of this great chamber to honor Alan Lemons and Chado Jacobs for their selflessness and heroism. We're proud to call them Coloradans, and the State is a better place because of them.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ARMANDO V. RODRIGUEZ

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a special tribute to my friend Judge Armando V. Rodriguez, who recently celebrated more than thirty-two years as a Judge in the Harris County Justice Court.

Judge Armando V. Rodriguez is a native Houstonian who received his Bachelors of Business Administration, Bachelor of Law, and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees from the University of Houston. He has been an active community leader in Harris County for over 40 years and has been an active member of a number of civic clubs and boards. He is truly one of the most dedicated public servants in our great city of Houston.

In 1972, Judge Rodriguez received the distinction of being appointed as one of the first Hispanics to preside over the City of Houston's Municipal Court system.

In 1973, he was the first Hispanic to be appointed Justice of the Peace by the Commissioners Court of Harris County, and by election has continuously held that office and is currently serving as the Presiding Judge. From 1992 to 1993, he was Vice Chairman of the Justice of the Peace Section of the State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, at the invitation of then President Jimmy Carter, Judge Rodriguez addressed the Conference on Hispanic Heritage in Washington, DC on the future of the Hispanic Community.

In the early 1980's Judge Rodriguez and I Co-Founded Houston's Black-Brown Coalition. This organization was designed to bring African-Americans and Hispanics together to work on issues of common interests. In addition,