

Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004. This Act expanded the use of mitigation grants and requires homeowners to participate in flood mitigation programs. Unfortunately, we are now faced with a situation where affected homeowners face the loss of benefits such as subsidized school lunches, Federal education grants and Medicaid. That is just not right.

H.R. 804 removes this concern and will allow flood mitigation grants to work as intended. I urge my colleagues to help protect homeowners throughout our Nation by supporting final passage of H.R. 804.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 804, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NASA AND JPL 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 68) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 68

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) \$50 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$50 gold coins which shall—

(A) weigh 33.931 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 32.7 millimeters; and

(C) contain 1 troy ounce of fine gold.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 \$1 coins of each of the 9 designs specified in section 3(a)(3)(B), which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 3. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the 50 years of exemplary and unparalleled achievements of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year "2008"; and

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum", and such other inscriptions as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate for the designs of the coins.

(3) COIN IMAGES.—

(A) \$50 COINS.—

(i) OBTVERSE.—The obverse of the \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear an image of the sun.

(ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear a design emblematic of the sacrifice of the United States astronauts who lost their lives in the line of duty over the course of the space program.

(iii) EDGE.—The edge of the \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear the names and dates of the spacecraft missions on which United States astronauts lost their lives over the course of the space program.

(iv) HIGH RELIEF.—The design and inscriptions on the obverse and reverse of the \$50 coins issued under this Act shall be in high relief.

(B) \$1 COINS.—

(i) OBTVERSE.—The obverse of the \$1 coins issued under this Act shall bear 9 different designs each of which shall consist of an image of 1 of the 9 planets of the solar system, including Earth.

(ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the \$1 coins issued under this Act shall bear different designs each of which shall be emblematic of discoveries and missions of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to the planet depicted on the obverse of the coin, subject to the following requirements:

(I) EARTH COIN.—The reverse of the \$1 coins issued under this Act which bear an image of the Earth on the obverse shall bear images emblematic of, and honoring, the discoveries and missions of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Mercury, Gemini and Space Shuttle missions and other manned Earth-orbiting missions, and the Apollo missions to the Moon.

(II) JUPITER COIN.—The reverse of the \$1 coins issued under this Act which bear an image of the planet Jupiter on the obverse shall include a scientifically accurate depiction of the Galilean moon Europa and depict both a past and future mission to Europa.

(III) SATURN COIN.—The reverse of the \$1 coins issued under this Act which bear an image of the planet Saturn on the obverse shall include a scientifically accurate depiction of the moon Titan and depict both a past and a future mission to Titan.

(IV) PLUTO COIN.—The reverse of the \$1 coins issued under this Act which bear an image of the planet Pluto on the obverse shall include a design that is emblematic of telescopic exploration of deep space by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the ongoing search for Earth-like planets orbiting other stars.

(iii) EDGE.—It is the sense of the Congress that, to the extent practicable, the edge of each \$1 coin should bear the names and dates or range of dates of missions or mission types to the planet depicted on the obverse.

(4) REALISTIC AND SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE DEPICTIONS.—The images for the designs of coins issued under this Act shall be selected

on the basis of the realism and scientific accuracy of the images and on the extent to which the images are reminiscent of the dramatic and beautiful artwork on coins of the so-called "Golden Age of Coinage" in the United States, at the beginning of the Twentieth Century, with the participation of such noted sculptors and medallist artists as James Earle Fraser, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Victor David Brenner, Adolph A. Weinman, Charles E. Barber, and George T. Morgan.

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory Committee.

SEC. 4. SYMBOLIC INCLUSION OF METALS THAT HAVE FLOWN IN SPACE.

(a) COLLECTION.—Each Federal agency and instrumentality of the United States, including the Department of Defense, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, that has in its possession any craft, or any part of a craft, that flew in space shall—

(1) retrieve such gold, silver, copper, and other metals that the Director of the United States Mint determines are appropriate for use in the production of any coins under this Act, from such craft or part, that can be retrieved without harming any such craft or part that may be of continuing use for its original purpose or for research, or whose preservation is appropriate for historical purposes; and

(2) deposit such metals so retrieved with the Director of the United States Mint.

(b) USE OF METALS IN PRODUCTION OF COINS.—Any metals deposited with the Director of the United States Mint under subsection (a) shall be used in the production of the coins struck under this Act by blending such metals with other metal necessary for the production of such coins so that all of the coins produced under this Act will contain some proportion of the bullion obtained from craft or parts of crafts that flew in space in an amount appropriate for the types and denominations of the coins and the amount of metals so deposited.

(c) RECORDKEEPING.—It is the sense of the Congress that each Federal agency and instrumentality of the United States which retrieves any metals in accordance with subsection (a) should maintain accurate and complete records of the retrieval and deposit of any such metals sufficient to allow the Director of the United States Mint—

(1) to provide certificates of authenticity with coins issued under this Act that some proportion of the contents of such coins were obtained from craft or parts of crafts that flew in space; and

(2) to package with each issued coin a list of the missions in which such craft flew in space.

(d) PRIVATE SPACECRAFT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency and instrumentality of the United States that has or continues to conduct space-related missions shall, in addition to the efforts described in subsection (a), make efforts to secure and retrieve from privately-held craft that has flown in space such gold, silver, copper and other metals that the Director of the United States Mint determines are appropriate for use in the production of any coins under this Act.

(2) RECORDKEEPING.—It is the sense of the Congress that each Federal agency and instrumentality of the United States which retrieves any metals pursuant to paragraph (1)

from privately-held craft that has flown in space should comply with the recordkeeping procedures described in subsection (c) with respect to such metal.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in proof quality only.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular combination of denomination and quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January 1, 2008.

(d) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No coins may be minted under this Act after December 31, 2008.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

- (1) the face value of the coins;
- (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and
- (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

(c) PRESENTATION.—In addition to the issuance of coins under this Act in such other methods of presentation as the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be appropriate, the Secretary shall provide, as a sale option, a presentation case which displays the \$50 gold coin in the center surrounded by the \$1 silver coins in an elliptical orbit.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

- (1) A surcharge of \$50 per coin for the \$50 coin.
- (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly distributed as follows:

(1) The first \$1,000,000 available for distribution under this section, to the NASA Family Assistance Fund for the purposes of providing need-based financial assistance to the families of NASA personnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the performance of their official duties.

(2) Of amounts available for distribution after the payment under paragraph (1), ½ to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for the preservation, maintenance, and display of space artifacts at the National Air and Space Museum (including the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center).

(3) Of amounts available for distribution after the payment under paragraph (1), ½ to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for the express purpose of providing funding for the establishment of a new stand-alone National Museum of Money.

(c) AUDITS.—The NASA Family Assistance Fund and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included

with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 8. BRONZE DUPLICATES.

The Secretary may strike and sell bronze duplicates of the \$50 gold coins authorized under this Act, at a price the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) and the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 68 and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the Members of the Texas delegation for their efforts in recognizing the achievements of NASA with the introduction of H.R. 68.

It is highly appropriate at the time we are soon to expect the space shuttle program to reenter demand exploration effort this week that we observe and appreciate the heroism, genius and sacrifices that the program has given us to this point in time.

I think it is also appropriate that with NASA's Deep Impact Project of just a few days ago, impacting the surface of Comet Temple, as well as the very slow rolling wheels of *Spirit* and *Opportunity* cross and traverse the face of Mars, it seems stunningly impossible that these programs began only 50 years ago. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I think this legislation is important for the House to favorably consider as it seeks to commemorate the anniversary by issuing in 2008 into silver dollar coins and a single \$50 coin representing the nine planets and the gold coin representing the sun.

Fittingly, the first million dollars of surcharges resulting from this effort will go to a needs-based fund benefiting the next of kin of those heroes who died in the exploration of space. Further, the remainder of funds will go to the Smithsonian for help in preservation of important spacecraft and half of the fund to create a stand-alone Smithsonian museum here in the District dedicated specifically to coins, currency and other monetary forms of transaction.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) who has led the charge to see this goal through to its final conclusion.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time and for bringing this bill to the floor in an expeditious fashion. I want to thank the committee members. I want to thank my 291 co-sponsors. I especially want to thank an extraordinarily able member of the gentleman's staff, Joe Pinder, who has done a superb job in helping prepare this bill for this floor.

It is indeed appropriate that the Congress recognize the 50th anniversary of the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory with this commemorative coin set for the year 2008 here about 24 hours away from America's return to space with our launch tomorrow afternoon of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, which will go from zero to Mach 25 in 8 minutes and 30 seconds into Earth's orbit tomorrow and just a short week after the Jet Propulsion Laboratory again showed the world the technological prowess of America's space program by hitting a comet for the very first time and exposing its inner workings to the eyes of scientists.

It was, in fact, on January 31 of 1958 that the American space program began with the launch of the first U.S. satellite, Explorer 1, which was built and controlled by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, under the guidance of the United States Army in response to the Soviet Union's launching of Sputnik. The United States responded very quickly, and before the year was out, the Congress had created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on December 3, 1958. JPL was then transferred over to the control of NASA. And since that time, JPL and NASA and the United States have gone on to explore our entire solar system with the help of the Hubble Space Telescope, the Spitzer Space Telescope.

We now have telescopes in orbit around the Earth that have identified up to 160 planets around other solar systems. NASA has discovered, as the chairman just mentioned, with the Mars Rovers that liquid water not only once existed on the surface of Mars, it appears that there are large frozen lakes on Mars. We have landed on the surface of the moon Titan. We not only landed men on the moon with the very successful Apollo program, but we are, under President Bush's vision for space exploration and the leadership of our new NASA administrator, Mike Griffin, rapidly moving towards the day very soon when men and women will return to the surface of the moon.

The accomplishments of NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory are absolutely extraordinary, but this exploration has not come without risk or loss. As with all exploration that is new in pressing the frontiers, it is dangerous. Tragically, on January 27, 1967,

the three *Apollo* astronauts were killed in a fire on the launch pad of *Apollo 1*. On January 28, 1996 the Space Shuttle *Challenger* was lost with its entire crew. And on February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* and its seven-member crew were lost during reentry.

Therefore, in designing this set of coins, I have proposed in this bill that the centerpiece will be a \$50 gold piece in high relief and proof honoring the lives of astronauts who have lost their lives in their exploration of space. On that \$50 gold piece will be an image of the sun. Then arranged around it will be nine silver proof dollars, each one representing a different planet in the solar system and each one commemorating missions to that planet. And of course the silver dollar for the planet Earth on the reverse side will have a design emblematic to the Apollo missions as well as Earth orbital missions.

This commemorative coin set is just one small piece of ongoing work that Congress is doing in support of NASA. It is difficult to even measure the value of the work that NASA does in exploring outer space. Measuring the value of NASA's work today is a lot like the question facing Americans 200 years ago when the Lewis and Clark expedition was launched to explore the west. How could Americans then measure the value of all the minerals and animal species that the Lewis and Clark expedition would find? How can we today measure the value of the exploration and discoveries that will be made by NASA in the Jet Propulsion Laboratory?

Americans today are enjoying the value of the miniaturization of computers, medical technology, heart pumps, valves, power generators, image processing, cell phone technology, CAT scanners, MRI machines, pacemakers. All of these extraordinary technological innovations are the result of work on our space program.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be the author of this legislation.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 68, the NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. Since it was first introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) at the beginning of this Congress, it has gathered almost 300 bipartisan co-sponsors, and I am very proud to have worked with him in this effort.

It is not surprising that it has such strong support. NASA is a national institution that has always had strong support in this body. Its quest for scientific knowledge and new frontiers of exploration has often pulled this Nation together.

In the half century since its founding, NASA has so often given us something to be proud of and patriotic about. When President Kennedy first told the world that the United States would be the first to put a man on the moon; when Neil Armstrong fulfilled that promise with one small step seen

around the world, and I do not think any of us who had the honor of seeing that will ever forget it; when the Hubble telescope sent back those first amazing photos of far away galaxies 15 years ago; when the Mars Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity found evidence of a former sea deep beneath the surface of the red planet, these are just a few of the very proud moments that this coin remembers.

This coin also honors those brave men and women who have given their lives in their pursuit of knowledge. The crew of the *Challenger*, the crew of the *Columbia*, the *Apollo 1* crew. These are true heroes, and it is imminently fitting that the proceeds of this coin will go to the families of NASA personnel who have died in the line of duty.

It is particularly appropriate that we consider this bill today just hours before the important launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* tomorrow. That launch begins the mission stage of the Return to Flight program NASA undertook after the *Columbia* tragedy. That review included new safety procedures, new analysis and reporting procedures, and new cost efficiencies. Let us hope that it is the successful beginning of a new and exciting era of this agency.

Commander Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a space shuttle mission, and her crew of 7 will once again take the shuttle to the International Space Station testing new safety procedures and delivering supplies. Although there have been several well-known women astronauts before, Commander Collins is still a new first, and I for one am particularly excited about this mission. We, the world, will be watching as *Discovery* lifts off tomorrow.

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I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 68, which commemorates the proud history of our National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and I would like to join my colleagues in thanking Joe Pinder, a member of the committee, for his very, very hard work in bringing the bill before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) a member of the committee whose district is very close to where the shuttle will take off tomorrow and who is also a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I rise to support this bipartisan effort to honor NASA with a 50th anniversary commemorative coin. Mr. Speaker, this is a great occasion, and I wish to thank those who have made this great occasion possible.

I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER), chairman of the Committee on Financial Services; the gentleman from Texas (Mr.

CULBERSON); the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN); the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY); and the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for their singular effort to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor.

I also wish to thank the many who work at NASA, Mr. Speaker, from the top administrator to the janitors who sweep the floor. They all play a role in making space flight possible. And of course, Mr. Speaker, I thank God for those brave astronauts who leave loved ones behind to traverse the heavens.

Mr. Speaker, while we commemorate NASA's 50 years of existence, we must acknowledge that it could not have been done without the hand of God. And if it is God's will, Mr. Speaker, it is safe to say that we have only just begun.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman from Louisiana yield for the purpose of entering into a colloquy?

Mr. BAKER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the chairman of the subcommittee, is it his understanding that a major purpose of commemorative coin legislation is to produce coins that commemorate particular institutions, individuals, or places, allowing both collectors and other citizens who are fans of the person or thing being commemorated to buy coins at a reasonable cost?

Mr. BAKER. That is my understanding.

Mr. CULBERSON. Is it further the gentleman's understanding that the Congress has received complaints from citizens who want to buy such commemorative coins claiming that, particularly for the more sought-after coins, that professional coin dealers buy up large numbers of those coins and sets, and then turn around and resell them to the public at a marked-up price?

Mr. BAKER. That is unfortunately the case.

Mr. CULBERSON. Would the gentleman also agree that it is the intent of Congress, through this legislation, that as many people as possible have an equal opportunity to buy these commemorative coin sets or individual coins once the Mint initially issues them?

Mr. BAKER. That is correct.

Mr. CULBERSON. Then I am sure the gentleman would also agree with me that the Mint should be very careful, take as much care as possible with all high-demand commemorative coin issues, but particularly with coin sets produced under this act, to sell no more than 10 complete sets of any issue to any individual, whether the purchase is made by that individual or through straw buyers.

Mr. BAKER. The gentleman agrees and stipulates the Mint should make every effort not to sell more than 10 sets of coins produced under the act to any buyer, be they bought by that individual or through buyers acting on behalf of that individual.

Mr. CULBERSON. I thank the gentleman, and would the gentleman yield further?

Mr. BAKER. The gentleman continues to yield.

Mr. CULBERSON. As the gentleman knows, the legislation under consideration by the House today would devote a portion of the surcharge income produced by the sale of these coins to provide not only funds for the NASA Family Assistance Fund, but also the initial funding for a stand-alone museum of money in Washington, DC, as a part of the Smithsonian Institution.

And as the gentleman also knows, the National Numismatic Collection of the Smithsonian is not currently on display, except for a few coins or currency in various exhibits related to the coins or currency or to the images displayed on them. Would the gentleman agree with me that the numismatic collection, one of the largest and best of its sort in the world, should be displayed in its own building here in Washington, in such a way that helps people understand not only the history of commerce and coins and currency in the United States but also the history of this country's development?

Mr. BAKER. I do agree.

Mr. CULBERSON. Would the gentleman further agree that the numismatic collection would best be displayed in a separate museum here in Washington, not as a subset or subsidiary of any existing Smithsonian museum, but that such a museum could also display examples of other forms of exchange of value, from barter and wampum to coins and currency of other countries, to electronic transfers of value, along with demonstrations of how coins and currencies are produced in its own stand-alone museum here in Washington, D.C.?

Mr. BAKER. I do agree.

Mr. CULBERSON. Does the gentleman agree that such a museum's exhibits could be kept vital by constant development of traveling exhibits to museums around the country, including those of the American Numismatic Association, the American Numismatic Society, and perhaps, if it is constructed, a museum in the old Mint in San Francisco?

Mr. BAKER. The gentleman agrees and believes that such a plan would be an excellent way to keep a new national museum of money exciting so that visitors would be interested in returning many times.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for this colloquy.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Science, this is an important day and an important week. I am delighted we have an opportunity to debate the assets of NASA today in the commemoration of their beginning their human space flight again. This legislation, the NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, is one that I think speaks loudly to the celebration that we hold tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), and I was a proud original cosponsor in his effort to promote and celebrate the excitement of the work of NASA and the Jet Propulsion Lab. I also thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) as well for their efforts in moving this legislation forward.

This legislation is unique in its promotion of NASA and the Jet Propulsion Lab, and it speaks to the best of what NASA represents. I believe, of course, that human space flight is crucial to the knowledge of men and women and the improvement and enhancement of Americans and people around the world. At the same time, the Jet Propulsion Lab also offers its own assets: new technology and understanding of flight and new sciences regarding these issues.

The good news of this particular legislation is it responds to a concern that I have, and that is to recognize the families that have seen their loved ones lost in the exploration of space. We know that space exploration is a good thing, so the idea that the \$50 coin and the \$10 coin, or the two coins that will be offered, the surcharge that will be on those two coins will be utilized for the NASA Family Assistance Funds, which proposes financial assistance to the families of NASA personnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the performance of their official duties.

As a neighbor to the Johnson Space Center, I knew the families of *Challenger* and *Columbia*, and my heart, as well as the hearts of all Americans, poured out in response to the enormous impact and loss of life to those families and to America, brave astronauts willing to risk their lives so that others might live well or better.

Tomorrow, at 3:51, the Space Shuttle *Discovery* is scheduled to launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida with a woman commander. What better statement to support that effort than by passing this legislation today. Even as they go forward, they will have the opportunity to test the muster and fortitude of the space station by delivering goods and services there. They will first demonstrate repair techniques on the shuttle's protective tiles, known as the thermal protection system. During the second space walk,

they will replace a failed control moment gyroscope, which helps keep the station oriented properly. And, finally, they will install the external storage platform, a sort of space shelf for holding spare parts during station construction.

This bill also provides for a free-standing museum and also a traveling exhibit to promote and celebrate the various metals that have been found in space. I think that is an excellent idea.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this legislation and I make one comment. It is important as we support the human space shuttle as it goes off tomorrow, that we continue our oversight with the NASA authorization bill and that we recognize the importance of safety and that we promote in large dollars the needs of NASA as it looks to the sophistication of new safety standards.

Then of course I hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring those who lost their lives aboard *Columbia* by rendering a gold medal, where I sought 300-plus signatures on legislation that I offered to promote that and to acknowledge their loss through a gold medal. I think that will bring us full circle to acknowledging going forward but also acknowledging the sacrifices that were being made.

Let me conclude my remarks by saying that in 1962, John F. Kennedy was at Rice University and he said these words: "We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people, for science technology has no conscience of its own."

Today, we honor them by this legislation. I congratulate my colleague for H.R. 68, and I urge my colleagues to enthusiastically support it, for it recognizes NASA and JPL for their 50th anniversary.

I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 68, the NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. Let me first thank the sponsor of this legislation my colleague from Texas, Mr. CULBERSON and the work of Ms. MALONEY in bringing this legislation to the floor. This bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

I am heartened to see that the NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act stipulates that any funds generated by the sale of these coins shall be paid by the Secretary to the NASA Family Assistance Fund for the purposes of providing financial assistance to the families of NASA personnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the performance of their official duties. This Act also states that each coin shall include a portion of metal that has flown in space so that these coins are truly symbolic of our Nation's journey through space.

Being from the City of Houston, which is home to the Johnson Space Center I take great pride in the accomplishments of NASA. Tomorrow at 3:51 p.m. the Space Shuttle *Discovery* is scheduled to launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. I am proud to

say that I will be among the Congressional Delegation that will be in attendance at this historic launch. The launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* will come more than 2 years after the tragic *Columbia* shuttle accident. The crew of the *Discovery* will include astronauts Steve Robinson, Jim Kelly, Andy Thomas, Wendy Lawrence, Charlie Camarda, Eileen Collins and Soichi Noguchi. With implementation of the *Columbia* Accident Investigation Board recommendations completed, this crew of seven astronauts will fly aboard Space Shuttle *Discovery* on mission STS-114 to test new safety techniques and deliver needed supplies to the International Space Station. Two crewmembers, Steve Robinson and Soichi Noguchi, will venture outside the Shuttle three times on spacewalks. The first will demonstrate repair techniques on the Shuttle's protective tiles, known as the Thermal Protection System. During the second spacewalk, they'll replace a failed Control Moment Gyroscope, which helps keep the station oriented properly. Finally, they'll install the External Stowage Platform, a sort of space shelf for holding spare parts during Station construction. STS-114 will also be the third trip of the Multi Purpose Logistics Module, MPLM, named Raffaello to the Station. It's essentially a "moving van" that transports supplies to the orbital outpost.

I have consistently stated that since the *Columbia* shuttle accident, that safety must be our number one priority. There is no doubt that the Space Shuttle *Discovery* is the safest ever flown by NASA, but when it comes to safety there is always more work to be done, both in regards to the shuttle as well as to the International Space Station. All Americans can look proudly upon the achievements of our space exploration tomorrow when we witness the launch of *Discovery*.

Truly, we as a nation have come a long way in the area of space exploration since President John F. Kennedy set the course for our Nation when he stated in a speech at Rice University in 1962: "We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people. For space science, like nuclear science and technology, has no conscience of its own. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man, and only if the United States occupies a position of preeminence can we help decide whether this new ocean will be a sea of peace or a new terrifying theater of war—The great British explorer George Mallory, who was to die on Mount Everest, was asked why did he want to climb it. He said because it is there. Well space is there, and we're going to climb it. And the moon and the planets are there. And new hopes for knowledge and peace are there. And therefore, as we set sail, we ask God's blessing, on the most hazardous, and dangerous, and greatest adventure, on which man has ever embarked." Tomorrow afternoon we embark on yet another journey of exploration and we write another chapter in the history of space. Our Nation has seen great tragedy and yet we continue to move forward because that is the only path that knowledge will accept, truly it is appropriate that tomorrow's shuttle will be called *Discovery*.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE

GREEN), who has the honor of representing many NASA employees.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank both my House colleagues but also my Rayburn Hall colleague, and also we both came to Congress in 1993 together. I rise to offer my strong support for H.R. 68 as an original cosponsor. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory have made significant contributions to all aspects of science advancement over the last half century and deserve the commemoration by having a coin minted celebrating this anniversary.

Since its inception in October of 1958, NASA has pushed the boundaries of exploration from Earth to the Moon, to the outer reaches of the solar system and to the edge of the universe through scientific and technological feats in air and space. NASA remains a leading force in scientific research and stimulating public interest in aerospace exploration, as well as science and technology in general.

Since 1997, I have had the privilege of having NASA astronauts visit middle schools in the congressional district I represent. It is good to have them as neighbors, literally in the district of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), but they actually come to our district to visit. The interaction between these middle school students with the astronauts and the questions they ask about space and NASA demonstrate the benefits of our space program and the impact on getting our students today who are in middle school excited about math and science.

It is really great when an astronaut who has a great story to tell can get the attention of these 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Because, again, that is the future not only of NASA but of our Nation. When looking back over its history, we remember such revolutionary achievements as the Echo Project, which led to advancements towards the satellite systems we take for granted today, the creation of the manned spacecraft center and mission control in my hometown of Houston, which later was renamed the Johnson Space Center, on through Neil Armstrong's first steps on the Moon and the lift-off of the shuttle program and the construction of the International Space Station.

The achievements of NASA have not come without cost, however, and having a coin minted to celebrate NASA's accomplishments will also honor the sacrifices made by crew members of *Apollo I*, *Challenger* and *Colombia* who gave their lives advancing our space program.

As NASA takes one more significant step in history tomorrow by returning to flight after more than 2 years, we have the opportunity today to express our support by authorizing the production of a coin emblematic of the 50 years of exemplary and unparalleled achievements of NASA and the JPL. Our prayers and support are with our

astronauts tomorrow, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and advise that that concludes the speakers on this side. As revealed by the eloquent statements from my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), a 10-year member of the Committee on Science; and the gentlemen from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) and (Mr. GENE GREEN), both of whom represent NASA employees, I would say there is great enthusiasm on both sides of the aisle, with over 300 cosponsors.

This is important legislation. It honors not only NASA on its 50th anniversary but the commitment of this country and body to science and scientific advancement. I thank very much the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), who has really been the fight behind moving this to the floor, along with the fine help of Joe Pinder.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just wish to point out that the astronauts are the bravest of the brave and assume the most dire risk in these missions as they approach to reach the outer limits of mankind's understandings. But within the organization known as NASA and JPL, there are literally thousands of individuals who work collaboratively for years to get these launches to the place where they can proceed at the highest level of safety and responsibility.

So I look at this act and this step the Congress is now authorizing today as one which recognizes not only those life-risking astronauts as being the pinnacle of our recognition, but certainly every member of the NASA JPL teams who literally work lifetimes to make these steps of exploration by humankind possible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

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Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is a collaborative effort. There are thousands of scientists and engineers at NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and across the country and scientists around the world who participate in these missions.

I also want to point out that this set of coins will contain metal that was recovered from spacecraft that actually flew in space. So some portion of each coin will contain metal that flew in space. There will be a certificate to that effect. The money will go to the support of the families, and it will also go to the support of the Air and Space Museum and for the creation of a money museum. The coins are expected to generate quite a bit of revenue, and, therefore, it will be a benefit to the families who have lost loved ones.

But above all, Congress has expressed its strong support for NASA. I am proud to serve on the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Science. The gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) is a strong supporter. This House has supported increased funding for NASA in a vote on this floor just weeks ago.

So in addition to this coin, Congress has expressed our tangible support for NASA and their mission with increased funding.

As this coin is brought into production in 2008, we do not know what the future holds, but I am confident it holds immense promise. Just as the Lewis and Clark expedition brought unknown and immense benefits to the Nation, the American space program will continue to bring incredible growth in our economy as a result of technological spinoffs. The unparalleled growth we have seen in worker productivity in America is a direct result of improvements in high technology and communications and scientific and medical research.

Thomas Jefferson, my hero, always said freedom is the firstborn child of science, and there is no better way for America to express our pride and our confidence in our Nation's space program than by commemorating their 50th anniversary with this coin set in the year 2008.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an exchange of correspondence between the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Ways and Means.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2005.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 68, the "NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act," which was reported to the House by the Committee on Financial Services on June 17, 2005.

As you noted, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 68 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation.

I appreciate and agree to your offer to include this exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2005.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Longworth House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I am writing concerning H.R. 68, the "NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act," which will be scheduled for floor consideration in the near future.

I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in this bill and request your cooperation in moving the bill to the House floor expeditiously. I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, two and a half years ago we all watched in horror as the space shuttle *Columbia* fell apart during re-entry over the Southwest. Nearly two decades ago, we all watched in horror as the *Challenger* blew up on launch. And before that, we remember other space tragedies. But, Mr. Speaker, despite all the sense of sorrow and loss that those events brought, we also remember the successes of NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratories—spacewalks and moon walks, moon rocks and rocket jocks.

The history of NASA and the JPL are a glorious celebration of all that is American, the right stuff, the elation and the tragedy, the bravery and the genius. And so today I rise in strong support of the proposal by the gentleman from Texas to honor the 50th anniversary of NASA and the JPL with commemorative coins to be issued in 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, just like the space exploration program, this program is big and reaches for the stars. The coins will have symbolic, though trace, amounts of metal that has actually flown in space. Though the coins will be available individually, the prize no doubt will be sets representing the solar system that will become prized collector items for space fans and coin collectors alike who will be glad to fork over the \$1,200 or \$1,500 that will be necessary to buy nine silver dollars and one gold \$50 coin.

Fittingly, surcharges on the sale of the coins will go to help the survivors of those heroes killed in space exploration accidents, and to help preserve and display spacecraft at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, said to be the most popular tourist destination in the District of Columbia. Also fittingly some of the surcharge money will be used to seed creation of a Smithsonian Museum of Money here in DC. I know the gentleman from Texas, besides being an energetic Member of this body, is a coin collector himself, and I think it is fitting that a coin program and a coin collector will be the start of such an overdue money museum effort.

And so, Mr. Speaker, as we all look at television this week and see the re-start of the space shuttle program, let us think a little about heroes, and about guts and glory, and

about genius, and how all of these things are the essence of America. And today, let us support this legislation overwhelmingly.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 68, legislation authorizing the U.S. Mint to produce commemorative coins for the 50th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the La Canada-Flintridge-based Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which I am privileged to represent.

NASA and JPL's decades of space and planetary exploration are worthy of this recognition. For more than fifty years, JPL has reached the outer limits of our solar system and made incredible technological breakthroughs. These achievements are all thanks to the outstanding people who have worked there over the years. Having just recently visited JPL for Deep Impact, I am confident they have another exciting fifty years ahead.

Several colleagues joined me at JPL on July 4th to watch Deep Impact, a mission that will expand our understanding of the universe and answer many questions about the origins of our solar system. As many of you read in the news, Deep Impact mission scientists at JPL accomplished the amazing feat of flying an 820-pound probe into the heart of a comet 268 million miles from Earth. To complicate matters, the comet was speeding through space at 23,000 miles per hour.

I want to thank my good friends Mr. CALVERT, who chairs the House Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, and Mr. SCHIFF, who used to represent JPL and now has Caltech in his district, for joining me at JPL to celebrate our nation's independence. I am sure they will agree that the fireworks we saw from JPL's Mission Control room on July 4th rivaled those that were launched here at our Nation's capital.

Deep Impact is just the latest in a long series of incredible accomplishments of JPL and NASA, dating back to the very beginning of United States space exploration. On January 31, 1958, the American space age began with the launch of Explorer I, the first U.S. satellite. At a time of national disappointment following the Soviet Union's successful launch of *Sputnik*, Explorer I turned the tide in international space exploration, displayed America's pioneering spirit and scientific excellence, and spurred our space efforts. The organization behind the development, launch, and control of Explorer I was JPL.

JPL will continue to push the boundaries of space and science with upcoming missions, such as SIM PlanetQuest and the Terrestrial Planet Finder. These missions will bring us closer to discovering whether there may be other planets like our own. This quest is an important one, which is why the search for Earth-like planets is a central part of the President's vision for space exploration.

I have no doubt these very exciting missions will expand our horizons, answer many questions and capture our imagination, just as previous missions have. For example, it was one year ago that the *Cassini-Huygens* Spacecraft successfully entered orbit around Saturn. Since that time we have seen some incredible images and learned a great deal about Saturn and its rings.

A little over two years ago, the first of the two Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit, was launched. In January 2004, the second rover,

Opportunity, landed on Mars. Both have proven to be work horses on the planet's unfor-giving surface, and both have made fascinat-ing discoveries. Spirit found evidence that early Martian history was wet and violently ex-plosive, and Opportunity found evidence of a shallow ancient sea.

There are also tangible scientific and tech-nological results from JPL and NASA's suc-cesses. For example, the work of scientists and engineers at JPL has resulted in medical imaging technology used in brain surgery, the detection of breast cancer and detection of skin cancer, and in computer chips that have been used to reduce engine emissions in automobiles. These and other breakthroughs play a critical role in ensuring America keeps its technological and scientific edge.

I congratulate JPL and NASA on their many decades of exploration and discovery.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Lou-isiaiana (Mr. BAKER) that the House sus-pend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 68, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL FOCUS ON REMOVING BARRIERS TO COMPETITIVENESS OF THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 352) providing that the House of Representatives will focus on removing barriers to competitive-ness of the United States economy.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 352

Whereas the economy of the United States is part of a global economy in which domes-tic industries face ever stronger competition from foreign industries;

Whereas growth in exports accounts for one-sixth of all growth in the United States economy;

Whereas approximately 1 in 5 factory jobs in the United States depends directly on international trade;

Whereas American farmers export 1 in 3 acres of their crops, and exports generate nearly 25 percent of farmers' gross sales;

Whereas the estimated total regulatory burden on United States business is more than \$850 billion per year;

Whereas, according to a study sponsored by the Office of Advocacy of the Small Busi-ness Administration, government regula-tions cost firms with fewer than 20 employ-ees 60 percent more per employee than the cost to firms with more than 500 employees;

Whereas the Office of Management and Budget recently found that for every dollar of direct budget expenditure devoted to regu-latory activity, the private sector spends \$45 to comply with regulations;

Whereas high-technology industries are driving economic growth around the world, as shown by the fact that the global market for high-technology goods is growing at a faster rate than the rate for other manufac-tured goods;

Whereas more than 1 million American jobs are dependant upon research and devel-opment spending in the United States;

Whereas the cost of medical care in the United States regularly outpaces general in-flation;

Whereas 90 percent of Americans who are under age 65 and covered by health insurance currently obtain that insurance through em-ployers;

Whereas 85 percent of jobs in the United States today are classified as skilled jobs and in 1950, only 20 percent of jobs were so classified;

Whereas 80 percent of the 50 fastest grow-ing occupations require education beyond high school;

Whereas, despite spending \$60 billion per year on training, 60 percent of United States companies are prevented from upgrading technologically by the low educational and technical skill levels of their workforce;

Whereas, in 2003, American taxpayers spent an estimated \$203.5 billion to comply with the Federal income tax code, enough to buy more than 5 million new luxury 4-door sed-ans at retail price and by 2007, annual com-pliance costs are projected to rise to \$244 bil-lion;

Whereas the tax compliance burden is twice as much for businesses with fewer than 20 employees as it is for businesses with more than 500 employees;

Whereas the cost of frivolous litigation in the United States exceeds \$230 billion per year, an amount equal to more than \$2,000 per American household;

Whereas the cost of liability defense is ap-proximately \$150,000 per year for each small business, money that could be spent to hire additional employees, expand operations, or improve health care coverage;

Whereas, in 2002, trial lawyers received ap-proximately \$40 billion from litigation, more than the annual revenues of Microsoft and Intel, and twice the revenue of Coca-Cola;

Whereas total energy consumption in the United States is expected to increase more rapidly than domestic energy supply through at least 2025;

Whereas the Energy Information Adminis-tration projects that net imports will con-stitute 36 percent of total United States en-ergy consumption in 2025, as compared with only 26 percent in 2002; and

Whereas, according to a study sponsored by the National Association of Manufactur-ers and American Council for Capital Forma-tion, consumers will face a 61 percent in-crease in gasoline prices unless the United States implements a policy to increase the supply of affordable energy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. RECOGNITION OF EXISTING BARRIERS TO KEEPING AND CREATING JOBS.

The House of Representatives recognizes that there are existing barriers to keeping and creating jobs in the United States, par-ticularly in the following areas:

- (1) Trade restrictions and inequality.
- (2) Bureaucratic red tape.
- (3) Innovation and investment.
- (4) Health care security.
- (5) Lifelong learning.
- (6) Tax burden and complexity.
- (7) Lawsuit abuse and litigation manage-ment.
- (8) Energy self-sufficiency and security.

SEC. 2. NEED FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

The House of Representatives recognizes that improving the competitiveness of the United States economy depends on congres-sional action to remove barriers in the areas referred to in section 1.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL AGENCY REVIEW OF RULES AND POLICIES.

The House of Representatives expresses the sense that every Federal agency should re-view its rules and policies regarding the competitiveness of the United States econ-omy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-ant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) and the gen-tleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their re-marks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 352.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gen-tleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kan-sas (Mr. TIAHRT).

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the United States has the number one economy in the world. For almost two centuries, we have been the envy of the world: a dynamic economy; a hard-working, motivated workforce; truly the land of opportunity where innova-tion has thrived. The status is chang-ing, though. We are running a \$670 bil-lion annual trade deficit which is con-tributing to our Federal budget deficit and slowed economy over the past few years.

This development is not a temporary blip on the radar screen. It is the cul-mination of a generation of increased regulation, unsound tax policies, lan-guishing emphasis on math and science education, unchecked health care costs, rampant lawsuit abuse, unfocused research and development funds and a weak trade policy enforce-ment. In short, our government has made it difficult and undesirable to do business in the United States. We have put roadblocks to keeping and creating jobs in America, and we have done this to ourselves.

If these current trends continue, our economy will continue to lag and we will no longer remain the most dy-namic economy in the world. Mean-while, China, India and other nations are preparing for the future. They are educating their students in math, science and technology, and pumping out record numbers of engineers. They are reducing tax rates and other eco-nomic barriers to entice investments in their nations. They are pursuing ag-gressive trade policies to reduce Amer-ica's dominance in world trade.

Without attention to these matters, the United States is headed towards a third-rate economy; 5, 10, 20 years down the road, we will no longer be the world's leader or even second place. We will become a third-rate economy. That is why we need to take this issue seriously.