when he led the Union Navy to the capture of New Orleans in 1862. And his command, ''Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead'' during his victory at Mobile Bay has become legendary.

As a result of Farragut's tremendous service, Congress established the ranks of rear admiral, vice admiral and admiral. Amazingly, he was the first person to hold each of these titles.

Tomorrow in Bath, Maine, the Navy will christen its newest guided missile destroyer as the USS Farragut. This recognition of Farragut's contribution to our naval tradition is a fitting tribute to one of our Nation's greatest military heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a privilege to recognize Admiral Farragut on the House floor today. He was a true Tennessee hero and one of our greatest Americans.

COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBER OF IRAQ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, since the 12th of June, there has been an embargo on the American press for reporting on a letter written by the Iraqi legislature. For that reason I will read it here today:

''As the National Assembly is the legitimate representative of the Iraqi people and the guardian of its interests, and as the voice of the people, especially with regard to repeated demands for the departure of the occupation, we note that these demands have earlier been made in more than one session but have blatantly been ignored from the Chair. Worse still is the Government's request to the U.N. Security Council to extend the presence of the occupation forces, made without consultation with the people's representative in the National Assembly who hold the right to make such fateful decisions.

''In line with our historic responsibility, we reject the legitimation of the occupation and we repeat our demand for the departure of the occupation forces, especially since our national forces have been able to break the back of terrorism and to notably establish its presence in the Iraqi street and to recover the state's dignity and the citizen's trust in the security forces leading to the noble objectives in an Iraq whose sovereignty is not embellished.

''Peace and God's Mercy and Blessings be Upon You.

''Falah Hasan Shanshal.''

This letter was signed by at least 126 members of the 275-member democratically elected Iraqi parliament and it gets nothing in the American press.

Everyone should know this.

JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS DESERVES A FAIR CONFIRMATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since the moment Justice O'Connor announced her resignation, President Bush has met with an unprecedented number of people of both political parties. His thorough and sound selection process has proven he is dedicated to nominating an impartial, highly qualified person to the Supreme Court.

The President's selection of Judge John Roberts is good for our country. Upon his nomination to the D.C. Circuit, 152 members of the D.C. bar wrote to the Senate Judiciary Committee to note that Judge Roberts is ''one of the very best and most highly respected appellate lawyers in the Nation.'' Throughout his accomplished legal career, Judge Roberts demonstrated that he will fairly interpret and apply the Constitution.

Judge Roberts is a man of great integrity who deserves a civil and swift confirmation process. The United States Senate has already unanimously expressed its confidence in Judge Roberts. I am hopeful that the Senate will confirm his appointment to the United States Supreme Court before the fall term begins.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11 and the London attacks.

''CATCH AND RELEASE''

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, about half the people caught crossing our borders illegally are from some other country than Mexico. They come from places like Colombia, Nicaragua, Brazil, Egypt, Poland, the Philippines, China, Syria, Russia and even France. But the detention facilities for these illegals are full. That means many, about half, are released on their own recognizance. That means on their word they promise to return for a deportation hearing. That means they are supposed to stay here, not leave. That further means 86 percent of those individuals never return for their hearing, according to USA Today.

Are we surprised? This catch-and-release policy defies common sense. It wastes the efforts of our border agents. It does not provide consequences for illegally coming to the United States. Giving illegals a get-out-of-jail-free card is further evidence the United States must have an immigration plan that works.

Everybody wants to live in the United States but everybody cannot live in the United States. We must have a policy that promotes legal immigration and prevents illegal immigration. This catch-and-release policy must cease.

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL SUCCESS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush started his first term, he challenged our educational system to end the soft bigotry of low expectations. Some of my colleagues objected to the accountability necessary. Students must be challenged to achieve. We must insist on results in our classrooms rather than accepting the status quo.

Students and teachers in Cobb County, Georgia, have accepted the challenge and excelled. Pope, Walton, Kennesaw Mountain, and Lassiter High Schools have some of the highest percentages of students meeting and exceeding standards in the entire State of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of all the teachers and students who dedicate themselves and work so diligently to make these achievements. I am excited about what is happening with education in my district. Challenging students to excel and insisting on accountability are the keys. Administrators, parents, teachers and students are to be congratulated. I am proud of the steps the Cobb County school system has taken to provide quality education to our children, some of the best in the State.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives made permanent many of the provisions of the PATRIOT Act which have caused great concern across this country with respect to undermining basic civil liberties. When we sing the Star Spangled Banner, we ask a question, ''Does that star spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?''

Francis Scott Key when he wrote the Star Spangled Banner understood the connection between freedom and bravery, between democracy and courage. We must work to create a Nation where we encourage the people of America to be free of fear. We must work to create a Nation where we are not afraid to celebrate our civil liberties.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3070, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 370 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 370

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3070) to reauthorize the human space flight, aeronautics, and science programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 0915

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 370 is a structured rule that provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. It waives all points of order against consideration of the bill.

Further, this resolution provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment, waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. It provides that the amendments printed in the report may be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of Whole. It waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of H. Res. 370 and the underlying bill, H.R. 3070, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005.

I would like to first thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the distinguished chairman of the Science Committee. As a former member of the Science Committee, I have a deep respect for the chairman, and I know how hard he works for the committee.

Also, I would like to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the Space Subcommittee chairman and the author of H.R. 3070, as well as the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the ranking members.

H.R. 3070 represents this House's commitment to maintaining the United States' dominance in the field of space exploration and technology. This legislation embraces and builds upon the goals laid out by President Bush in his vision for space exploration.

Overall, H.R. 3070 instructs the President, in conjunction with the administrator of NASA, to develop a national aeronautics policy through the year 2020. This act directs the NASA administrator to develop a goal and implement a strategy of running American astronauts to the Moon by 2020. Also the legislation calls for a Crew Exploration Vehicle to be launched as close to 2010 as possible.

These goals and the related studies should be key to preparing the National Aeronautics Space Administration for the eventual deployment of astronaut crews to land on and return from Mars and other destinations. America has a history of innovation and technological development, and the American people demand that NASA do all within its resources and power to see that we keep that record intact.

In this legislation, Congress also expresses its support for the Hubble space telescope and its valued use as a tool to answer important questions of space and science. Therefore, H.R. 3070 directs NASA to create and implement a plan to repair the Hubble telescope after completion of the current Space Shuttle mission.

With respect to the international space station, H.R. 3070 provides instructions and strongly encourages NASA to develop a Crew Exploration Vehicle that will enable our crews to stay at the space station for longer durations of time.

Additionally, this legislation promotes a number of additional initiatives, including the development of a supersonic aircraft capable of carrying civilian passengers.

H.R. 3070 also calls for the development of a hydrogen fuel cell-powered aircraft and an unmanned aircraft capable of operating for long periods on Mars. One study would be commissioned to assess the potential threats of near-Earth objects that are at least 100 meters in diameter, while another study would examine ways to reduce fuel consumption and noise levels of commercial aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, in a time of deficits and budget reform, this legislation responsibly requires that the President's annual budget request for NASA include a breakdown of budgets on the basis of specific programs. This practice would allow the Congress and the President to better assess the cost-benefit analysis of each individual program and make determinations about future spending. The American people want to see technological development and advancement in the field of space exploration, but they demand and deserve that such provisions are made in a fiscally responsible and sound way.

So in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to again commend the work of the Science Committee and to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), as well as the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the ranking members.

I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the fiscal year 2006 National Aeronautics and Space Administration authorization, and I congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), the ranking member; and the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the subcommittee chairman; and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL),

the ranking member, for their hard work on this bipartisan bill. I welcome a bill that comes to the floor with such unity, and I applaud their efforts.

On March 16, 1926 Robert Goddard of Auburn, Massachusetts, which happens to be in my congressional district, successfully launched the first liquid fueled rocket. The first-of-its-kind rocket reached an altitude of only 40 feet, and its flight lasted only 2 seconds; but it inspired generations of future astronauts and scientists. Dr. Goddard, recalling his childhood curiosity for physics wrote: ''I imagined how wonderful it would be to make some device which had even the possibility of ascending to Mars. I was a different boy when I descended the tree from when I ascended, for existence at last seem purposive.''

Robert Goddard would come to be known as the Father of Modern Rocketry. And I know Dr. Goddard would be pleased to know that the exploration of Mars is within our grasp.

By prioritizing human space travel, we are trying to maintain the United States as a leader in space exploration and aeronautics. Projects such as the International Space Station encourage worldwide efforts in science, and it is important that the U.S. continue to participate. Through these missions, we will be able to explore the long-term effects of space travel on humans, collect data regarding life on other planets, and gain greater knowledge of the universe.

Mr. Speaker, the safety of our astronauts must remain our top priority. So I am pleased that the committee has included funding in this bill for the Crew Exploration Vehicle. This vehicle will serve as a backup should problems arise with the International Space Station.

The spirit of Robert Goddard and NASA inspires children of all ages to imagine what is beyond the blue sky above. In my own district, Worcester Polytechnic Institute has received $1.5 million in the last 5 years for aerospace research projects.

WPI has also sent 150 undergraduate students to the Goddard Spaceflight Program, where they researched and developed products in gravity studies and contamination prevention. With ongoing partnerships with facilities across the country, WPI has formed a multidecade bond with NASA. The knowledge gained from these undergraduate programs fosters not only a love of learning, but also offers careers at NASA and other leaders in the aeronautics field.

NASA has always been a leader in educating young people about the wonders of space and aeronautics. Through outreach programs, NASA is able to engage students and encourage studies in math and science. This bill authorizes NASA to establish two annual Charles ''Pete'' Conrad Astronomy awards for amateur astronomers. The first award would be presented to astronomers who, using amateur equipment only, discover the brightest near-Earth asteroid during the past year.

The second award would be presented to the amateur or group who made the greatest contribution to the Minor Planet Center catalog of near-Earth asteroids. Each award amounts to $3,000. By promoting the pursuit of science through such awards, we can engage children and young adults. We can get them more interested in math and science, which is so incredibly important in the 21st century.

In the spirit of ingenuity, I am also pleased to mention $6.9 billion has been set aside for science, aeronautics, and education activities. This will allow scientists to research such projects as hydrogen fuel cell-powered aircraft that would have no hydrocarbon or nitrogen oxide emissions, and to study ways to reduce fuel consumption and noise levels of commercial aircraft. Important potential markets could be created from these new technologies, and in a society that is overdependent on fossil fuels, this money is well spent. In fact, the research that NASA is doing can help us make the world more environmentally safe.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank the authors of this bill for their hard work.

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the distinguished subcommittee chairman.

Mr. CALVERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT); the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), the ranking member; and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the ranking subcommittee member.

We have worked out a good bill. This is a good rule. This recognizes the importance of human exploration, robotics, science, aeronautics. This is a good compromise, a good bipartisan solution. Let us move this rule and get on to the general debate.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for allowing me to speak. I would also like thank the members of the committee who worked so hard to craft a bill that was strong enough to pass through the committee unanimously.

When most people think about NASA, they think about space exploration, and rightly so, with such a rich history. NASA has given us Projects Mercury and Gemini in the 1960s, followed closely by the Moon landings of Project Apollo. They gave us Skylab in the 1970s, and finally, the Space Shuttle beginning in the 1980s and sunsetting in the coming years. And of course the Hubble telescope has given us decades of groundbreaking information about deep space through its spectacular visual images. Several of those images, I might add, adorn the walls of my own office.

But NASA's contribution to America is far more than space flight alone. Its satellites have allowed NASA to pioneer the science of remote sensing, which enables us to perform incredible analyses of the Earth from space. And its aeronautic research and development has dramatically improved our air safety, our economy, and our environment. National security has especially benefited.

From surveillance systems that monitor aircraft flight paths to the development of secure communications systems, NASA's research has been instrumental in improving our national security. In addition, NASA's recent successful hypersonic flight, clocked at about 7,000 miles per hour, demonstrated that military or civilian aircraft might soon be able to fly anywhere in the world in less than 2 hours. Aeronautics is a substantial and key part of the national defense infrastructure.

NASA's basic research is critical to their success. NASA is able to develop long-term, high-risk enabling technologies that the private sector is unwilling to perform because it is either too risky or too expensive. When the government-sponsored basic research yields information that could lead to a service or product with profit potential, the private sector transitions from research to development in order to bring it to market.

□ 0930

While it is not always as simple as this, it is clear that where there is no basic research there can be no development.

NASA's field centers like the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, in my district, are where the actual basic research is done. There you will find unique research facilities, some of the best scientists and engineers of our time, and a track record of discovery for the public good that is the envy of the world.

One of the secrets to NASA's success has been its dual emphasis on both space and aeronautics. A successful space program is heavily dependent on a strong aeronautics program. Indeed, you cannot get to space without first navigating the atmosphere. Yet the budget proposal for fiscal year 2006 attempted to cut funding for aeronautics research. The result is that recovery would have taken decades and billions of dollars.

That is why I am here on the floor to express my gratitude for the work that my colleagues have put into this bill. It shows that the good people of the committee share my own deep affinity and appreciation for a healthy, balanced NASA. It recognizes that a healthy NASA requires strong field research centers like NASA Glenn. Strong field centers in turn are dependent on their facilities and, most importantly, their talented workforce. The

bill, therefore, protects the jobs and facilities from cuts that are driven by what accountants want instead of what good scientists and engineers in our Nation need.

The bill stands in defense of aeronautics in a nod to the crucial role that it plays in so many facets of our everyday life. The effort to keep NASA healthy is by no means over, but this bill represents a long stride in the right direction. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

I want to also thank my colleagues from other committees such as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), and others who have been very supportive of our overall efforts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me just close by saying that this is an important bill. It is important because our space program yields many benefits to the people of this country and the world.

A lot of times people do not quite understand all that we gain from the space program. It is not just about rockets flying up in the sky. It is about improving aeronautics research. It is about communications, improving our communications systems. It is about protecting our national security. It is about learning more about science and our environment. It is about finding better ways to protect our environment here on Earth. We learn of medical breakthroughs, medical research goes on during these space flights. So it benefits us in multiple ways, and I think it is important for people to appreciate that because oftentimes people will ask, why do we need to spend all this money on the space program? The reason why is there are tangible benefits all around us that have been directly derived from the space program.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me again say I am grateful that this is a bipartisan bill, and I am grateful that there is no controversy on the rule. This is a unique moment because we have not had such a bill like this in a long time. I ask Members to support the bill and support the rule.

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by saying that from the Apollo Moon landing to the first Space Shuttle to the International Space Station, NASA has been pushing the envelope of American science.

NASA is not just about inventing TANG. It is about American achievement, American pride. As we move to consideration of the underlying bill, I would ask my colleagues to remember their first thoughts of space as a child and the wonderment they felt.

As a child I remember looking at the stars and Moon at night and the sheer awe I experienced. NASA has taken that wonderment and awe and turned it into tangible results with legal real-life applications.

My good friend and colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) talked about breakthroughs in the field of medicine where, of course, I practiced as a physician for almost 30 years, and NASA has been a part of numerous breakthroughs that do help doctors treat their patients and save lives.

For instance, NASA has been directly or indirectly involved in digital imaging breast biopsy systems; breast cancer detection; laser angioplasty for blocked arteries; ultrasound skin damage assessment; human tissue stimulator which helps control chronic pain; cool suits that lower a patient's body temperature, producing a dramatic improvement of symptoms of multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and others; programmable pacemakers, eye screening to detect eye problems in very young children; automated urinalysis, medical gas analyzer systems used to monitor operating rooms for analysis of anesthetic gasses and measurement of oxygen, carbon dioxide and nitrogen concentrations to assure proper breathing environment for surgery patients; voice-controlled wheelchairs.

Just to list off a few more: Arteriosclerosis, hardening of the arteries, detection, ultrasound scanners, automatic insulin pump, portable x-ray devices, invisible braces, dental arch wire, palate surgery. I could go on and on.

Mr. Speaker, of course the field of medicine is only one area of course that NASA has helped all of us. In reality that are so many, many more that we do not have time to mention here today. Suffice it to say, we are making tremendous breakthroughs in the field of science because of what NASA has done and how we have funded this program.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3070.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 370 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3070.

□ 0939

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3070) to reauthorize the human space flight, aeronautics, and science programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) to assume the chair temporarily.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

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

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3070. Let me begin by thanking the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) for the magnificent work he has performed as chairman of our Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics and the lead author of this bill. Without the gentleman's steadfast determination, his insight and openness to compromise, we would not be here today.

I also want to thank my ranking member, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), and our subcommittee ranking, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) for their leadership and willingness to compromise, and I want to thank all the members of the committee on both sides of the aisle who have contributed to this bill. It is truly a team effort and it shows what Congress can accomplish if we work together in an open-minded and cooperative manner.

Now, I have opened my statement by focusing on compromise but I do not want anyone to think that this bill represents some kind of random hodgepodge of competing views. H.R. 3070 is built on firm central principles that will give clear direction to NASA.

What are those principles? First, Congress endorses the President's Vision for Space Exploration. The United States will work to return to the Moon by 2020 and then will move on to other destinations. We will build a new Crew Exploration Vehicle that, among other tasks, will service the International Space Station. And the bill allows the Space Shuttle to be retired no later