

1437c-1(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) QUALIFIED SMALL PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES.—Except to the extent that this subsection applies to annual public housing agency plans, nothing in this section may be construed to exempt a qualified small public housing agency from the requirements under this subsection.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this bill and include therein any extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a bill that was brought forward in the previous Congress by the gentleman from Texas. It is very important that we regulate when necessary; it is equally important that we not regulate when it is unnecessary. This is an example of our recognition of that principle.

We have rules that govern housing authorities. These are complex and difficult issues that housing authorities face. But one set of rules should not be made to fit all. Smaller housing authorities ought to have more flexibility than the larger housing authorities. This bill, brought forward by the gentleman from Texas, and I congratulate him for his persistence in calling this to the attention of the committee, acts on that principle.

It exempts from excessive regulation, but not entirely from regulation, smaller housing authorities. In particular, I would just say that there was a rule for example that plans be made every 5 years and in some cases housing authorities have to report on certain things every year. In this case what we would say is that the smaller housing authorities would file their plan every 5 years and only if there are any changes of any significance in the covered matters would they have to report again. So it would save a lot of time, energy, and paperwork for the smaller housing authorities. It will help these people with the difficult job that they do.

I thank the gentleman for bringing the bill forward.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3067, the Small Public Housing Authority Act.

Like many of my colleagues, I represent a rural district where most of the public housing authorities operate in small communities. In fact, many of the PHAs in my district administer fewer than 200 housing units and some even have part-time directors or directors who split their time between public housing authorities. For many of those small public housing authorities, excessive paperwork requirements and outdated regulatory burdens continue to create an unnecessary distraction from their important work of providing affordable housing for underprivileged families.

For example, the 1992 Public Housing Reform Act requires PHAs to submit both a 5-year and an annual plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. While the annual plans were designed to address changes to the 5-year plan, small PHAs are already required by law to submit any policy changes, as the gentleman from Massachusetts said, to HUD for review and approval. This yearly report of unchanged plans and policy amounts to an unnecessary Federal mandate. While HUD has taken regulatory steps to streamline this annual reporting for small PHAs that are performing well, a recent example of one of the streamlined plans was 47 pages with attachments. So small public housing authorities just do not have the time and the staff and the resources to complete these annual plans by themselves and in many cases have to use outside vendors or contractors, expensive consultants to do the work that they don't have the computer software to do themselves to complete these annual plans.

For this reason, I have introduced H.R. 3067, the Small Public Housing Act. This legislation would bring long-needed regulatory relief to our small PHAs by exempting those that are 250 fewer units and section 8 vouchers from continuing the requirement of an annual plan if there is no material change in the operations during that year. So if they have some material change they still have to do it, but if it is just business as usual, then they do not have to make that submission. They still have to submit their 5-year plan, as is required by law.

H.R. 3067 only addresses, as I said, the annual plans. This legislation will provide an opportunity where they don't have to spend their much-needed resources and time away from doing what they need to be doing, and that is helping to provide affordable housing for our most needy folks.

I would just want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his interest in public housing. This bill passed overwhelmingly in the previous Congress. Unfortunately, the time ran out, and we did not get that done from the other body. As a matter of fact, it passed 387-2; so I think there is broad support for this. I appreciate Chairwoman WATERS' Housing Subcommittee as well as Ranking Member

BIGGERT and, of course, Ranking Member BACHUS for their support for this legislation.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I thank the staffs of the majority and minority, who worked very well together on this, as they do on many bills.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3067, the Small Public Housing Authority Act.

Like many of my colleagues, I represent a rural district where most of the Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) operate in small communities. These small PHAs face excessive paperwork requirements and outdated regulatory burdens which undermine their ability to provide affordable housing to underprivileged families.

Currently, all PHAs are required to submit both 5-year and annual plans to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD. However, these PHAs do not have the time, staff or resources to complete these annual plans and often have to hire expensive consultants to help complete these annual plans.

I am pleased that my friend, Mr. NEUGEBAUER from Texas, has taken the steps needed to alleviate this burden on small PHAs by introducing H.R. 3067, the Small PHA Act. This legislation will bring long needed regulatory relief to small PHAs by exempting those with 250 or fewer public housing units and Section 8 vouchers from the requirement of submitting an annual plan to HUD.

Today, I urge my colleagues to once again support regulatory relief for small PHAs by supporting H.R. 3067.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3067, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NASA 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2750) 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 the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2750

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 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration began operation on October 1, 1958, with about 8,000 employees and an annual budget of \$100,000,000.

(2) Over the next 50 years, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has been involved in many defining events which have shaped the course of human history and demonstrated to the world the character of the people of the United States.

(3) Among the many firsts by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are the following:

(A) On December 6, 1958, the United States launched Pioneer 3, the first United States satellite to ascend to an altitude of 63,580 miles.

(B) On March 3, 1959, the United States sent Pioneer 4 to the Moon, successfully making the first United States lunar flyby.

(C) On April 1, 1960, the United States launched TIROS 1, the first successful meteorological satellite, observing Earth's weather.

(D) On May 5, 1961, Freedom 7, carrying Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr., was the first American space flight involving human beings.

(E) On February 20, 1962, John Glenn became the first American to circle the Earth, making three orbits in his Friendship 7 Mercury spacecraft.

(F) On December 14, 1962, Mariner 2 became the first spacecraft to commit a successful planetary flyby (Venus).

(G) On April 6, 1965, the United States launched Intelsat I (also known as Early Bird 1), the first commercial satellite (communications), into geostationary orbit.

(H) On June 3-7, 1965, the second piloted Gemini mission, Gemini IV, stayed aloft for 4 days and astronaut Edward H. White II performed the first EVA or spacewalk by an American.

(I) On June 2, 1966, Surveyor 1 became the first American spacecraft to soft-land on the Moon.

(J) On May 31, 1971, the United States launched Mariner 9, the first mission to orbit another planet (Mars) beginning November 13, 1971.

(K) On April 12, 1981, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched the Space Shuttle Columbia on the first flight of the Space Transportation System (STS-1).

(L) On June 18, 1983, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched Space Shuttle Challenger (STS-7) carrying 3 mission specialists, including Sally K. Ride, the first woman astronaut.

(M) In another historic mission, 2 months later the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched STS-8 carrying the first black American astronaut, Guion S. Bluford.

(N) On July 23, 1999, the Space Shuttle Columbia's 26th flight was led by Air Force Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a Shuttle mission.

(4) On April 9, 1959, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration unveiled the Mercury astronaut corps, 7 men with "the right stuff": John H. Glenn, Jr., Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Alan B. Shepard, Jr., M. Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Cooper, Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, and Donald K. "Deke" Slayton.

(5) On May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy, reflecting the highest aspirations of the American people, proclaimed: "I believe this Nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth. No single space project in this period will be more impressive to

mankind, or more important in the long-range exploration of space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish."

(6) On September 19, 1961, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration center dedicated to human space flight would be built in Houston, Texas.

(7) On February 17, 1973, the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston was renamed the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

(8) On December 21, 1968, Apollo 8 took off atop a Saturn V booster from the Kennedy Space Center for a historic mission to orbit the Moon.

(9) As Apollo 8 traveled outward, the crew focused a portable television camera on Earth and for the first time humanity saw its home from afar, a tiny, lovely, and fragile "blue marble" hanging in the blackness of space.

(10) This transmission and viewing of Earth from a distance was an enormously significant accomplishment and united the Nation at a time when American society was in crisis over Vietnam, race relations, urban problems, and a host of other difficulties.

(11) On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin made the first lunar landing mission while Michael Collins orbited overhead in the Apollo command module.

(12) Armstrong set foot on the surface, telling the millions of listeners that it was "one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind"; Aldrin soon followed and planted an American flag, but omitted claiming the land for the United States as had routinely been done during European exploration of the Americas.

(13) The 2 Moon walkers left behind an American flag and a plaque bearing the inscription: "Here Men From The Planet Earth First Set Foot Upon the Moon. Jul. 1969 A.D. We Came in Peace for All Mankind."

(14) On April 24, 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was launched into space aboard the STS-31 mission of the Space Shuttle Discovery and since then the Hubble has revolutionized astronomy while expanding our knowledge of the universe and inspiring millions of scientists, students, and members of the public with its unprecedented deep and clear images of space.

(15) On July 4, 1997, the Mars Pathfinder landed on Mars and on January 29, 1998, an International Space Station agreement among 15 countries met in Washington, DC, to sign agreements to establish the framework for cooperation among the partners on the design, development, operation, and utilization of the Space Station.

(16) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's stunning achievements over the last 50 years have been won for all mankind at great cost and sacrifice; in the quest to explore the universe, many National Aeronautics and Space Administration employees have lost their lives, including the crews of Apollo 1, the Space Shuttle Challenger, and the Space Shuttle Columbia.

(17) The success of the United States space exploration program in the 20th Century augurs well for its continued leadership in the 21st Century; this leadership is attributable to the remarkable and indispensable partnership between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and its 10 space and research centers as follows:

(A) From small spacecraft to supercomputers, science missions and payloads to thermal protection systems, information technology to aerospace, the Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley provides products, technologies, and services that enable NASA missions and expand human knowledge.

(B) The Dryden Flight Research Center, the leading center for innovative flight research.

(C) The Glenn Research Center, which develops power, propulsion, and communication technologies for space flight systems and aeronautics research.

(D) The Goddard Space Flight Center, which specializes in research to expand knowledge on the Earth and its environment, the solar system, and the universe through observations from space.

(E) The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the leading center for robotic exploration of the Solar System.

(F) The Johnson Space Center, which manages the development, testing, production, and delivery of all United States human spacecraft and all human spacecraft-related functions.

(G) The Kennedy Space Center, the gateway to the Universe and world leader in preparing and launching missions around the Earth and beyond.

(H) The Langley Research Center, which continues to forge new frontiers in aviation and space research for aerospace, atmospheric sciences, and technology commercialization to improve the way the world lives.

(I) The Marshall Space Flight Center, a world leader in developing space transportation and propulsion systems, engineers the future to accelerate exploration and scientific discovery.

(J) The Stennis Space Center, which is responsible for rocket propulsion testing and for partnering with industry to develop and implement remote sensing technology.

(18) The United States should pay tribute to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and to its successful partnerships with the space and research centers, by minting and issuing a commemorative silver dollar coin.

(19) The surcharge proceeds from the sale of a commemorative coin would generate valuable funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Families Assistance Fund for the purposes of providing need-based financial assistance to the families of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration personnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the performance of their official duties.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 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 300,000 \$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.

(d) MINTAGE LEVEL LIMIT.—Notwithstanding the mintage level limit described under section 5112(m)(2)(A)(ii) of title 31,

United States Code, the Secretary of the Treasury may mint and issue not more than 300,000 of each of the 9 \$1 coins authorized to be minted under this Act.

SEC. 4. 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.

(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) OBERVERSE.—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) 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) OBERVERSE.—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 the contributions of the research and space centers, 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 (AND OTHER DWARF PLANETS) 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.

(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 Twen-

tieth Century, with the participation of such noted sculptors and medallic 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 and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory Committee.

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) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2008.

(d) ISSUANCE OF GOLD COINS.—Each gold coin minted under this Act may be issued only as part of a complete set with 1 of each of the 9 \$1 coins minted under this Act.

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 elliptical orbits. All such presentation cases shall bear a plaque with appropriate inscriptions that include the names and dates of the spacecraft missions on which United States astronauts lost their lives over the course of the space program and the names of such astronauts.

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 \$4,000,000 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 of the next \$1,000,000 to each of the following:

(A) The Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational (D.R.E.M.E.) Science Literacy Foundation

for the purposes of improving and strengthening the process of teaching and learning science, math, and technology at all educational levels, elementary through college through the promotion of innovative educational programs.

(B) The Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence for the purposes of supporting the work of the Foundation in building critical thinking skills, experiential teaching methods, science literacy, and integrated approaches to learning and individual responsibility in achieving excellence.

(3) The remainder of the amounts available for distribution after the payments under paragraphs (1) and (2), 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).

(c) AUDITS.—The NASA Family Assistance Fund, the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational Science Literacy Foundation, the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence, 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. Such duplicates shall not be considered to be United States coins and shall not be legal tender.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material therein.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Allow me, first of all, to acknowledge the chairperson of the Financial Services Committee as I rise in strong support of H.R. 2750, the NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. Chairman FRANK has been an outstanding leader of his committee and has been very gracious in the formulating and finalizing of this legislation. I thank him again. I thank his staff and, of course, the staff of the ranking member.

Let me also thank my colleague from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), who joined me in introducing this legislation. And, of course, we have worked very handily together, if you will. I thank his staff. And together we are committed to affirming and celebrating the 50th anniversary of NASA and as well the 50th anniversary of the Jet Propulsion Lab.

Let me just quickly acknowledge the founding of NASA in October, 1958, and remind my colleagues of all the successes that we have accomplished through the belief, as John F. Kennedy said, that we can explore space.

Might I acknowledge and remind my colleagues of February 20, 1962, John Glenn's becoming the first American to circle the Earth. On April 6, 1965, the United States launched *Intelsat I*. On November 13, 1971, *Mariner 9* was launched. In 1981, NASA launched the space shuttle *Columbia*. And on June 18–24, 1983, NASA launched the space shuttle *Challenger*.

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Of course, we have faced some sad moments in NASA's history, but overall, as we look toward the future and have reflected on July 22, 1999, Space Shuttle *Columbia*, and then of course July 20, 1969, *Apollo 11*, we know that tragedy has faced NASA, but we also know that we have faced tragedy with a certain determination and commitment to space exploration.

This coin bill will, in fact, allow us to commemorate a number of the centers and the 50 years of success of NASA and the Jet Propulsion Lab. But it also will provide a comfort to those families of *Challenger* and *Columbia* by providing aid to the families. It will give the coin collectors, I hope, a great day of celebration, and it will give those who are interested in studying and producing more Americans in math and science an opportunity to promote and support programs that will encourage young people to go into math and science.

I believe that this bill is one that all of us can support. It is a bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2750, the NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. I would like to thank my colleague Mr. CULBERSON, who joined me in introducing this legislation, and Chairman FRANKS of the Financial Services Committee, for his excellent leadership in shepherding this historic legislation to passage on the House floor.

The year 2008 will mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). This important legislation celebrates NASA's 50th birthday with a commemorative coin. The legislation also honors the extraordinary partnerships between NASA and its 10 space and research centers.

Madam Speaker, NASA has a distinguished history. The United States of America won the race to land a man on the moon and, thanks to the courage, dedication, and brilliance of NASA, America has continued to lead the world in the exploration of the solar system and the universe.

On October 1, 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration began operation. At the time it consisted of only about 8,000 employees and an annual budget of \$100 million. Over the next 50 years, NASA has been involved in many defining events which have shaped the course of human history and demonstrated to the world the character of the people of the United States.

Many of us remember how inspired we were when on May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed: "I believe this Nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth. No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important for the long-range exploration of space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish."

Always at the forefront of technological innovation, NASA has been home to countless "firsts" in the field of space exploration, from the 1958 launch of *Pioneer 3*, the first U.S. satellite to ascend to an altitude of 63,580 miles, to the January 1998 signing of the International Space Station agreement between 15 countries, establishing the framework for cooperation among partners on the design, development, operation, and utilization of the Space Station. Over the past 50 years, NASA's accomplishments have included:

On 20 Feb. 1962, John Glenn became the first American to circle the Earth, making three orbits in his *Friendship 7* Mercury spacecraft.

On 6 Apr. 1965, the United States launched *Intelsat I*, the first commercial satellite (communications), into geostationary orbit. On 13 Nov. 1971, the United States launched *Mariner 9*, the first mission to orbit another planet (Mars).

On 12 Apr. 1981, NASA launched the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on the first flight of the Space Transportation System (STS-1).

On 18–24 Jun. 1983, NASA launched Space Shuttle *Challenger* (STS-7) carrying three mission specialists, including Sally K. Ride, the first woman astronaut. In another historic mission, two months later NASA launched STS-8 carrying the first black American astronaut, Guion S. Bluford.

On 22 Jul. 1999, the Space Shuttle *Columbia*'s 26th flight was led by Air Force Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a Shuttle mission.

On July 20, 1969, *Apollo 11* astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin made the first lunar landing mission while Michael Collins orbited overhead in the *Apollo* command module. Armstrong set foot on the surface, telling the millions of listeners that it was "one small step for man—one giant leap for mankind." Aldrin soon followed him out and planted an American flag but omitted claiming the land for the U.S. as had routinely been done during European exploration of the Americas. The two Moon-walkers left behind an American flag and a plaque bearing the inscription: "Here Men From Planet Earth First Set Foot Upon the Moon. Jul. 1969 A.D. We Came in Peace for All Mankind."

On April 24, 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was launched into space aboard the STS-31 mission of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. The Hubble has revolutionized astronomy while expanding our knowledge of the universe and inspiring millions of scientists, students, and members of the public with its

unprecedented deep and clear images of space."

Madam Speaker, in addition to these historic events, NASA has greatly contributed to our understanding of our universe. In 1968, *Apollo 8* took off atop a Saturn V booster from the Kennedy Space Center for a historic mission to orbit the Moon. As *Apollo 8* traveled outward, the crew focused a portable television camera on Earth and for the first time humanity saw its home from afar, a tiny, lovely, and fragile "blue marble" hanging in the blackness of space.

This transmission and viewing of Earth from a distance was an enormously significant accomplishment and united the Nation at a time when American society was in crisis over Vietnam, race relations, urban problems, and a host of other difficulties.

The success of the United States space exploration program in the 20th Century augurs well for its continued leadership in the 21st Century. This success is largely attributable to the remarkable and indispensable partnership between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and its 10 space and research centers. One of these important research centers is located in my home city of Houston. The Johnson Space Center, which manages the development, testing, production, and delivery of all United States human spacecraft and all human spacecraft-related functions, is one of the crown jewels of NASA and a lodestar Houston area. The other nine research and space centers are:

1. The Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley provides products, technologies, and services that enable NASA missions and expand human knowledge in areas as diverse as small spacecraft and supercomputers, science missions and payloads, thermal protection systems and information technology.

2. The Dryden Flight Research Center, the leading center for innovative flight research.

3. The Glenn Research Center, which develops power, propulsion, and communication technologies for space flight systems and aeronautics research.

4. The Goddard Space Flight Center, which specializes in research to expand knowledge on the Earth and its environment, the solar system, and the universe through observations from space.

5. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the leading center for robotic exploration of the Solar System.

6. The Kennedy Space Center, the gateway to the Universe and world leader in preparing and launching missions around the Earth and beyond.

7. The Langley Research Center, which continues to forge new frontiers in aviation and space research for aerospace, atmospheric sciences, and technology commercialization to improve the way the world lives.

8. The Marshall Space Flight Center, a world leader in developing space transportation and propulsion systems, engineers the future to accelerate exploration and scientific discovery.

9. The Stennis Space Center, which is responsible for rocket propulsion testing and for partnering with industry to develop and implement remote sensing technology.

NASA's stunning achievements over the last 50 years have been won for all mankind at great cost and sacrifice. In the quest to explore the universe, many NASA employees

have lost their lives, including the crews of Apollo 6, the Space Shuttle *Challenger*, and the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

The surcharge proceeds from the sale of a coin commemorating the contributions of NASA will generate valuable funding for the NASA Families Assistance Fund for the purposes of 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. And equally important, proceeds from the sale of commemorative coins will also benefit the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational, DREME, Science Literacy Foundation, which is dedicated to improving and strengthening the process of teaching and learning science, math, and technology at all educational levels, elementary through college through the promotion of innovative educational programs.

This legislation also benefits the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence which is dedicated to building critical thinking skills, experiential teaching methods, science literacy, and integrated approaches to learning and individual responsibility in achieving excellence. The remainder of the proceeds after distribution to the NASA Families Assistance Fund and the DREME and Jemison Foundations are slated to go 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).

Madam Speaker, in the centuries to come, when space travel will be commonplace and America will have successfully led the way for humanity to colonize and utilize the resources of other planets, these first 50 years of NASA's existence will be remembered as the most significant era of human space exploration. It is, therefore, important that we commemorate the great achievements of NASA's first 50 years.

In closing, Madam Speaker, let me also thank the Staff of the Financial Services Committee on this legislation. I also wish to pay special tribute to Yohannes Tsehai and Gregory Berry of my staff. Without their valuable contributions this significant legislative achievement would not have been possible. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this historic legislation.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume in support of H.R. 2750.

I want to, first of all, thank the chairman of the committee, Chairman FRANK, for his insistence in bringing this bill to the floor throughout this process. I want to thank my colleague from Houston, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. Thank you so much, SHEILA. It's been a pleasure working with you on this important bill honoring the 50th anniversary of NASA, an organization whose exploration of outer space has truly touched the lives and hearts, I think, of every American today, can relate to the experience I know so many Americans had on the 31st of January, 1958, when the very first U.S. satellite, *Explorer 1*, was launched into orbit. In response to the Soviet Union's launching of *Sputnik*, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which

had been set up under the guidance of the United States Army, put together *Explorer 1* and built it and launched it. And before the year was out, Congress had created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on December 3, 1958.

So next year is a golden anniversary for NASA, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has given the people of the United States many, many things to be proud of. NASA has gone on to explore, from that first launch of that first satellite, the entire solar system and much of the visible universe with the help of the Hubble Space Telescope and the Spitzer Space Telescope.

We now have telescopes in orbit, Madam Speaker, around the Earth that have identified up to 160 planets around other solar systems. NASA has discovered, with the Mars Rovers, that liquid water not only once existed on the surface of Mars, but it appears that there are large frozen lakes on Mars today.

We have landed on the surface of the moon, Titan. We not only landed men on the moon with a very successful Apollo program, but we are today, under President Bush's vision 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, JPL, and all of the research labs under NASA are absolutely extraordinary, but this exploration has not come without loss. As with all exploration that is new, it has been dangerous. On January 27, 1967, America tragically lost three Apollo astronauts on the launch pad because of a fire in *Apollo 1*. Changes were made to the program, and the spacecraft became much safer and we moved on and beyond that terrible tragedy. And then of course we lost the Space Shuttle *Challenger* on January 28, 1986, with its entire crew, a terrible day that I know many of us remember. And then most recently, tragically, on February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* was lost during re-entry with its entire seven-man crew.

Therefore, in the design of this coin set, my coauthor and I, Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE, have proposed that the centerpiece of the coin will be a \$50 high-relief-proof gold piece that will honor the lives of the astronauts who have lost their lives in the 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 our solar system and each one commemorating missions to that planet as put together by each of the different NASA centers. And the silver dollar for the planet Earth will of course have on the reverse side a design emblematic of the Apollo mission as well as Earth orbital missions.

This commemorative coin set, Madam Speaker, is just one small piece of ongoing work that Congress is doing

in support of NASA. And it's really difficult to measure the value of what NASA has done for the United States and for all mankind in exploring space. Asking what NASA has done for the United States and for all of humanity is a little like the question facing Americans 200 years ago when Congress authorized the Lewis and Clark Expedition. No one knew at the time what Lewis and Clark might find. They didn't know what resources might lie out there. They did not know what the uncharted blank spots on the western American map would yield. And it was impossible, 200 years ago, to measure the value of the discoveries, the minerals, the animal species, the incredible new horizons that Lewis and Clark would discover; no way to measure that.

And I think equally here today, Americans standing on the brink of the 21st century cannot place a value or measure on the discoveries that the men and women of NASA, our brave astronaut core and all the scientists and engineers who work at NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Goddard, the Applied Physics Lab, and all the research centers around the country that have helped the American space program lead the world.

I am very proud to be a lead coauthor on this bill and helping honor the men and women of NASA and the extraordinary discoveries that NASA has made, and also to remind Americans of the value we each enjoy with miniaturization of computers, medical technology, heart pumps, valves, power generators, image processing, cell phone technology, CAT scanners, MRI machines. All of the extraordinary technological innovations that we touch on a daily basis have come from our work on the space program.

I am proud to be here today with my coauthor, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, on a bill that is strongly supported in a bipartisan way. It was passed unanimously last Congress. I am confident we will enjoy that kind of support today for this coin set honoring NASA's 50th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Mr. BARNEY FRANK. And I thank him so very much for his leadership.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I am very happy to see this bill here today; one, because it is important that we commemorate NASA. And secondly, as a tribute to the persistence of the gentlewoman from Houston and the gentleman from Houston, I am particularly glad that we are passing this bill because it will mean I will get an extra 2 hours a week because I've spent about 2 hours a week talking to them since January. So for both reasons, I am very happy that this very worthy bill is about to pass.

I submit the following correspondence:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Washington, DC, July 30, 2007.

HON. BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman, Financial Services Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR BARNEY: I am writing regarding H.R. 2750, the NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over bills that raise revenue. H.R. 2750 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, as part of our ongoing understanding regarding commemorative coin bills and 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 in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2750, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the record.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 30, 2007.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHARLIE: I am writing in response to your letter regarding H.R. 2750, the "NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act," which was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Financial Services on June 15, 2007. It is my understanding that this bill be scheduled for floor consideration shortly.

I wish to confirm our mutual understanding on this bill. As you know, section 7 of the bill establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill. I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in such surcharges as revenue matters. However, I appreciate your willingness to forego committee action on H.R. 2750 in order to allow the bill to come to the 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 this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I thank my coauthor, and I urge Members of the House to pass this legislation honoring NASA's 50th anniversary.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. As I close, Madam Speaker, let me simply put in the RECORD the different research centers that will be honored: The Ames Research Center in California; Silicon Valley; the Dryden

Flight Research Center; the Glenn Research Center; the Goddard Space Flight Center, that is our neighbor here in the Washington, D.C. area and represented by our own majority leader, Mr. HOYER, which I would like to pay a special tribute and appreciation to, and to his staff and his chief of staff; the Jet Propulsion Lab that is in California; the Kennedy Space Center in Florida; the Langley Research Center; the Marshall Space Flight Center; the Stennis Space Center; and of course the Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, Texas. All of these will be recognized.

And certainly to the astronauts and certainly to the loved ones of those fallen, and yet the future astronauts, who will be trained by funding in this bill, I thank them again. Let me thank Mr. OBEY of Mr. FRANK's staff, and my staff, Mr. Tsehai and Mr. BERRY.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. CULBERSON. If I could yield quickly for a point of legislative intent clarification.

I notice the intent of my cosponsor that these centers, and I agree completely, they all need to be recognized and honored, but of course the front of the coin is going to represent each one of the nine planets. And it is your intent, as I know it is mine, that the reverse of the coin reflect and honor the research center that contributed to missions to that particular planet is what I'm confident you mean.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. The calling out of the names of the centers, if I may reclaim my time, is to indicate that all of them are part of the NASA family. And we are honoring NASA for its 50 years, so we wanted to make sure all of them were counted in the RECORD.

Mr. CULBERSON. But in particular, in relation to those planets that they led the effort to explore.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. That is correct.

Mr. CULBERSON. Thank you very much.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we are hoping that all of the young people will enjoy this coin, and we hope that it will further science and exploration. I would ask my colleagues, and thanking my cosponsor and the 300-plus Members of this House, in supporting this bill.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill and move us forward in science and opportunity for a greater future for this country.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to cosponsor H.R. 2750, which directs the United States Treasury to create a commemorative coin honoring the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). From the early space flights of the 1960s to Neil Armstrong's "small step for mankind" to last year's successful missions of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* and the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, NASA's has a long and im-

pressive record of accomplishments that should be a source of pride to all Americans.

As a representative of the Gulf Coast of Texas, which is home to many of NASA's most significant triumphs, I have had the opportunity to meet many NASA employees. I have always been impressed by their professionalism and dedication to their mission.

What philosopher Ayn Rand wrote of the moon landing in 1969 applies to all of NASA's missions: "Think of what was required to achieve that mission: think of the unifying effort; the merciless discipline; the courage; the responsibility of relying on one's judgment; the days, nights and years of unswerving dedication to a goal; the tension of the unbroken maintenance of a full, clear mental focus; and the honesty. It took the highest, sustained acts of virtue to create in reality what had only been dreamt of for millennia." I encourage all of my colleagues and all Americans to join me in commending NASA for 50 years of accomplishments by supporting H.R. 2750.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2750, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PURPLE HEART RECOGNITION DAY

Mrs. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 27) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Purple Heart Recognition Day," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The text of the Senate concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use;

Whereas the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded in action against an enemy of the United States or are wounded while held as prisoners of war, and is awarded posthumously to the next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who are killed in action against an enemy of the United States or who die of wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States;

Whereas the Purple Heart was established on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington issued an order establishing the Badge of Military Merit;