

and activities and meetings at parks and museums and other public spaces will promote a greater understanding and appreciation of astronomy and science throughout the United States and throughout the world.

It is only befitting that the United States is taking a lead role in this international celebration, because today the United States is at the forefront in astronomical research. We have built telescopes that would astound Galileo and his contemporaries. We have telescopes on earth with mirrors 400 inches across. We also have telescopes that orbit our planet far above the earth's surface. Indeed, NASA's space-based telescopes, including Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer, Chandra, and many others, regularly produce images that amaze and inspire people around the world and yield scientific discoveries on everything from the formation of stars and the solar systems to the fate of our universe itself.

Now, I am particularly excited about the opportunity to use the International Year of Astronomy to engage and inspire young people in mathematics and science generally and particularly. I am pleased that the 110th Congress has come to great lengths to increase our Nation's emphasis on science and math, most notably by passing the America COMPETES Act last year. But we can always do more. And nothing captures and engages the mind of students, young and old alike, than the process of discovery. This is the fundamental essence of astronomy, and it is my hope that the events and the activities sponsored by the International Year of Astronomy will inspire many new young people to embrace worlds that will open them through the study of math and science.

□ 1200

Astronomy has a strong history in my southern Arizona district, and one of the brightest stars we have is Dr. Roger Angel, a professor of astronomy and recipient of a MacArthur Foundation genius award. In Dr. Angel's own words, "from the study of astronomy, students today can learn about energy in all of its forms, as well as gain an appreciation for the beauty of the universe. They learn practical tools needed to address the energy and climate crisis. Astronomy know-how even has practical value. I am using it to figure out good ways to harness the sun's energy on Earth with big, telescope-like mirrors."

Thus, we see an example of how students today can build a foundation, and exactly the kind of scientific understanding and technological skill that we need to solve some of society's most pressing problems, climate change, global warming, and our energy needs in the future.

In the United States, some key organizations sponsoring, promoting and organizing events and activities for the International Year of Astronomy in-

clude the American Astronomical Society, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the Astronomical League, the American Association of Variable Star Observers, NASA, and the National Science Foundation.

Ultimately, astronomy is the study of everything that is not on Earth. It appeals to our sense of wonder and curiosity and our place in the vast cosmos. The German astronomer Johannes Kepler, whose laws of planetary motion are still used today said, "The treasures hidden in the heavens are so rich that the human mind shall never be lacking in fresh nourishment."

It is those treasures of the heavens, and the men and women who study them, that we will celebrate and honor and discover in 2009 with the International Year of Astronomy.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank again the gentleman from Texas. All humanity has a common interest in what astronomy can provide to us, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support the bill.

I want to thank staff on both sides for their work on this bill, including a young woman named Susan Gleiser. This is one of the first bills she has had a chance to work on. I urge unanimous adoption of this resolution.

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I concur with Mr. FEENEY and would ask that this bill pass.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 375.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN IN SPACE, DR. SALLY K. RIDE, AND HONORING HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPACE PROGRAM AND TO SCIENCE EDUCATION

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1313) celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first American woman in space, Dr. Sally K. Ride, and honoring her contributions to the space program and to science education.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1313

Whereas Sally K. Ride of Los Angeles, California, a physicist by training and an accomplished athlete, was selected as a National Aeronautics and Space Administration

(NASA) astronaut candidate in 1978, as part of the eighth class of NASA astronauts and one of only six women in the class;

Whereas on June 18, 1983, Dr. Ride was lofted into space aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger as part of the STS-7 crew, making her the first American woman in space;

Whereas the STS-7 crew launched two communications satellites from the Shuttle and accomplished many first steps for the United States space program, including the first release and capture of a satellite using the Shuttle's robotic arm, the first demonstration of a Shuttle's flight in formation with a free-flying satellite, and the first United States-German cooperative material science experiments aboard the Shuttle, as well as the conduct of other science experiments;

Whereas on October 5, 1984, Dr. Ride made her second spaceflight as a mission specialist on STS 41-G, a mission that demonstrated the ability to refuel satellites in orbit and launched NASA's Earth Radiation Budget Satellite, which spent over 20 years providing valuable scientific data on the Earth's absorption and re-radiation of solar energy;

Whereas when training for Dr. Ride's third spaceflight assignment ceased after the tragic loss of the Space Shuttle Challenger and her crew in 1986, Dr. Ride was called to serve on the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident;

Whereas Dr. Ride has continued to serve the Nation's space program with distinction, authoring the 1987 report, *Leadership and America's Future in Space*, and serving on the Columbia Accident Investigation Board;

Whereas, as an educator, author of children's books, and advocate for the next generation of women in science, mathematics, and technology, Dr. Ride's work has contributed to the wellbeing of our youth; and

Whereas Dr. Ride has worked tirelessly and passionately to encourage young women to follow the sciences, mathematics, and technology by promoting science festivals, camps, and other opportunities through which young women can acquire hands-on learning about science: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) celebrates the 25th anniversary of Dr. Sally K. Ride as the first American woman in space; and

(2) extends its appreciation and gratitude for Dr. Ride's excellence in service to the Nation as an astronaut, educator, and advocate for the next generation of women scientists and engineers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1313, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H. Res. 1313 which celebrates the 25th anniversary of the first American woman in

space, Dr. Sally K. Ride. I was pleased that the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY), and the gentleman from Colorado (Chairman UDALL), joined me as original cosponsors and I want to thank them for their support. This is a very special woman who has done something significant for the United States of America and a project which has touched this world.

On June 18, 1983, Dr. Sally Ride made history with her groundbreaking space shuttle flight. However, that has been by no means her only accomplishment. Dr. Ride has had a distinguished career of service to America as a veteran NASA astronaut and as an unwavering advocate for the next generation of women in space, mathematics and engineering.

She first flew as a member of the STS-7 crew, which achieved several firsts for the United States space program, including the first release and capture of a satellite using the orbiter's robotic arm and the first demonstration of a shuttle flying in formation with a free-flying satellite. And she then flew again in 1984.

She has served the space program in other ways as well. In 1987, she wrote the thoughtful report on future directions of the U.S. space program, entitled "Leadership and America's Future in Space." And when tragedy struck the human space flight program, she served with distinction on both the *Challenger* and *Columbia* accident investigation boards.

In addition, Dr. Ride has worked tirelessly to encourage young women to pursue careers in science, engineering and mathematics through her science festivals and camps. She also has sought to engage young people through other creative approaches such as the EarthKAM program she established to allow middle school students to participate directly in the excitement of space exploration. That is one of the programs that we have seen dwindle and we hope to have a rekindling of support because it is a magnificent one to encourage students to stay involved and become involved in math and science and engineering courses.

As many of you know, I am passionate about the need to get our kids interested in math and science, and I think the Nation owes Dr. Ride a debt of gratitude for her efforts in that regard.

So to sum up, Dr. Sally Ride has done much to serve our Nation since she rode the shuttle into space 25 years ago. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting her on this 25th anniversary of her first flight.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am pleased to join Mr. LAMPSON in cosponsoring House Resolution 1313 which honors the life and accomplishments of an amazing woman, astronaut Dr. Sally K. Ride.

Sally Ride was born in Los Angeles, California, on May 26, 1951, and is per-

haps best known as the first American woman in space. She was selected for NASA's astronaut program in January 1978, and became a mission specialist on the seventh space shuttle mission, which launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, on June 18, 1983. This was the second flight of the space shuttle *Challenger*, and the first mission with a five-person crew. During the mission, Dr. Ride operated the shuttle's remote manipulator arm to perform the first deployment and retrieval exercise from the shuttle's cargo bay. These early demonstrations paved the way for routine, yet vitally important, operations necessary to build the International Space Station.

Prior to her service with NASA, Sally Ride received a bachelor of science in physics and a bachelor of arts in English, and went on to receive a master of science and doctorate degree in physics from Stanford University.

What is perhaps less well known about Sally Ride is the work she has done to motivate girls and young women to pursue careers in math and science and technology. She has written five science books for children, and initiated and directed education programs to encourage a fascination with science among middle school students.

Dr. Ride also served the Nation in other capacities, including as a member of the Presidential Commission investigating the Space Shuttle *Challenger* accident, and later the *Columbia* Accident Investigation Board. She has been a member of the President's Committee of Advisers on Science and Technology, and the National Research Council's Space Studies Board, as well as served on the Boards of Congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

Indeed, our country does owe a great debt of gratitude to this amazing woman, Dr. Sally Ride.

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and grant her as much time as she may consume.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Dr. Sally K. Ride's historic journey as the first American woman in space.

Dr. Ride also happens to be one of my constituents, and I have had the pleasure of meeting her. Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Ride and the STS-7 crew of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* were propelled into space. It had been over two decades since Neil Armstrong took one giant leap for mankind. But on June 18, 1983, Sally K. Ride took a large stride for women everywhere by becoming the first American woman in space.

A gifted athlete, Dr. Ride had opted out of a promising tennis career to pursue college degrees in physics and English at Stanford University.

In 1977, Dr. Ride's interest was piqued by a NASA announcement seeking

young scientists to serve as mission specialists on shuttle flights. Hers would be the first NASA class ever to accept women.

Out of thousands of applications, NASA selected Dr. Ride to be one of six women out of 35 new astronauts, and the class became known as the "35 New Guys."

To be sure, Mr. Speaker, on her historic space mission, Dr. Ride wasn't simply along for the ride. She was the mission's flight engineer, tested a robotic arm which deployed and retrieved satellites, and assisted the commander and pilot during flight.

Six years later, Dr. Ride flew into space again. Her experience and success earned her the respect of our Nation and her colleagues.

In 1986, she was asked to serve on the Presidential Commission investigating the tragic *Challenger* explosion. Dr. Ride left her position at NASA in 1987, but has never stopped inspiring and encouraging the next generation to explore the world of science and space. Her impact on young women has been particularly profound.

She is a professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego and director of the University of California's California Space Institute. And she has also founded her own company, Sally Ride Science, which encourages students and their parents and teachers to learn about and enjoy the field of science. And I know from personal experience that at the science and math fairs, she is the hit. She is the highlight, and all of the young people really line up to talk with her.

Capturing the essence of Dr. Ride's life work, her company's motto is "All Science, All the Time."

It is this undying dedication to her field and to informing and inspiring young people that has been so characteristic of Dr. Ride since her barrier-breaking space mission a quarter of a century ago. With women like her leading the way, it is no wonder that the number of females to obtain degrees in science and engineering has increased dramatically in the last 30 years.

Ensuring that women are equitably represented in science and technology fields will mean a new level of global competitiveness for our country. This is something we need as we continue to fall behind as a Nation in math and the sciences.

While Dr. Ride's mission landed safely 25 years ago, the task of achieving gender parity in her field is far from over.

As Dr. Ride's Congresswoman and as the grandmother to a young and curious granddaughter, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. FEENEY. I have no further speakers, and again, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of Mr. LAMPSON's resolution honoring a great American. I urge its adoption by the House.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to work with those who

have believed so very much in helping change young people's lives across this country of ours. Mr. FEENEY, Mrs. DAVIS and Mr. UDALL all saw the impact that Dr. Sally Ride had on so many young minds across this Nation to encourage them to study science and math and engineering-related classes. I think this is a wonderful way of saying thank you to another pioneer who has made a difference in so many people's lives.

I thank the gentleman for working with us on the resolution. I ask support for the resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1313, Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the first American Woman in Space, Dr. Sally K. Ride. This legislation gives us the opportunity to extend our appreciation and gratitude for Dr. Ride's excellence in service to the Nation as an astronaut, educator, and advocate for the next generation of women scientists and engineers. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from Texas, Congressman LAMPSON, for introducing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Sally K. Ride of Los Angeles, California, a physicist by training and an accomplished athlete, was selected as a National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, astronaut candidate in 1978, as part of the eighth class of NASA astronauts and one of only six women in the class. On June 18, 1983, Dr. Ride was lofted into space aboard the Space Shuttle *Challenger* as part of the STS-7 crew, making her the first American woman in space. As a representative from "Space City Houston", I am personally inspired by Dr. Ride's accolades and triumph over the status quo.

The STS-7 crew launched two communications satellites from the shuttle and accomplished many first steps for the United States space program, including the first release and capture of a satellite using the shuttle's robotic arm, the first demonstration of a shuttle's flight in formation with a free-flying satellite, and the first United States-German cooperative material science experiments aboard the shuttle, as well as the conduct of other science experiments.

On October 5, 1984, Dr. Ride courageously made her second spaceflight as a mission specialist on STS 41-G, a mission that demonstrated the ability to refuel satellites in orbit and launched NASA's Earth Radiation Budget Satellite, which spent over 20 years providing valuable scientific data on the Earth's absorption and re-radiation of solar energy. However, training for Dr. Ride's third spaceflight assignment ceased after the tragic loss of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* and her crew in 1986. Following this, Dr. Ride was called to serve on the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident.

Refusing to let the tragic loss of her crewmen deter her from her passion, Dr. Ride continued to serve the Nation's space program with distinction, authoring the 1987 report, *Leadership and America's Future in Space*, and serving on the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. As an educator, author of children's books, and advocate for the next generation of women in science, mathematics, and technology, Dr. Ride's work has contributed to the wellbeing of our youth.

Dr. Ride has worked tirelessly and passionately to encourage young women to follow the sciences, mathematics, and technology by promoting science festivals, camps, and other opportunities through which young women can acquire hands-on learning about science.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Sally K. Ride. This legislation gives us the opportunity to extend our appreciation and gratitude for Dr. Ride's excellence in service to the Nation as an astronaut, educator, and advocate for the next generation of women scientists and engineers.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1313.

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. LAMPSON. Mr. 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.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPACE FOUNDATION

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1312) commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 1312

Whereas, on March 21, 1983, the United States Space Foundation was founded by a small group of pioneering individuals in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas 2008 marks the 25th year of excellence and service of the Space Foundation;

Whereas the mission of the Space Foundation is to advance space-related endeavors to inspire, enable, and propel humanity;

Whereas the Space Foundation has become the leading nonprofit organization advancing the exploration, development, and use of space and space education for the benefit of all humankind;

Whereas the Space Foundation embraces all aspects of space including commercial, civil, and national security;

Whereas the current national security environment requires extensive use and advancement of space-based assets;

Whereas the Space Foundation has contributed to space education programs in all 50 States and also in Europe and Asia;

Whereas the Space Foundation is regarded internationally as a leading space advocacy organization, and is a member of the United States Delegation to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and

Whereas the Space Foundation hosts the National Space Symposium and Strategic

Space and Defense, 2 of the top conferences for space professionals: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the contributions made by the Space Foundation; and

(2) commemorates the Space Foundation's 25 years of excellence and support to the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1312, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1312 which commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation. The Space Foundation was founded in 1983 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with the purpose of helping to advocate the Nation's space-related endeavors. Over the past 25 years, it has carried out that mission in an impressive fashion. It has grown to the point where it now undertakes space advocacy and space education initiatives in all 50 States.

As someone who feels passionately about the importance of getting our young people interested and educated in math and science, I want to call particular attention to the foundation's educational activities. The Space Foundation has recognized that space exploration is something that can really inspire kids and propel them to study hard so that some day they, too, can be a part of the Nation's endeavors in space. The foundation is doing work, important work in promoting science education, and I salute them for it.

In addition, the Space Foundation has involved itself in seeking the best path forward for the Nation across a range of commercial, civil, and national security space issues, and it consistently provides a respected forum for policy discussion and debates. In short, the Space Foundation is at the forefront of promoting the development and use of space for all humankind.

I want to join Mr. LAMBORN and other Members in congratulating the Space Foundation on 25 years of accomplishment and in wishing the foundation all the best for another 25 years of service.

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

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