

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1312 which commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation. I want to thank its sponsors, Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado and Mr. LAMPSON from Texas, for this very important resolution honoring the Space Foundation.

The Space Foundation was established in Colorado Springs in 1983 to provide a nonpartisan source of credible information to a wide variety in the space community, from professionals to the general public.

Over the last 25 years, the Space Foundation's mission has been to advance space-related endeavors to inspire, enable, and propel humanity. The Space Foundation has developed alongside the space community by fostering and promoting a greater understanding and awareness and practical uses of space for the benefit of civilization in all aspects of space: commercial, civil, and national security.

Perhaps the most notable has been the Space Foundation's commitment to space education programs. Since its inception, the Space Foundation has been a leading champion for bringing space science into the classroom. The Space Foundation's Summer Institute provides a unique educational environment in which teachers can continue their space studies and help enhance their students' classroom experience.

In addition to the Summer Institute, the Space Foundation hosts the National Space Symposium and Strategic Space and Defense, two of the top three conferences for space professionals worldwide. I might say I had the honor of attending a recent conference in Colorado Springs. The Space Foundation has been useful in efforts to bring together all aspects of the space industry and has established itself a crucial member of the space community.

I'm proud to support this resolution honoring a significant organization, and I urge my colleagues to also support House Resolution 1312.

With that, I would reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the sponsor of the resolution, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank my colleague from Florida.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in support of this resolution, H. Res. 1312, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the United States Space Foundation. Founded in March of 1983 by a small group of pioneering individuals in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the Space Foundation serves to advance America's space-related endeavors to inspire, enable, and propel humanity. This nonprofit organization is a leader in advancing space exploration, development, and use of space and space education for the benefit of all humankind and embraces all aspects of space including commercial, civilian, and national security components.

The Space Foundation's leadership in international space advocacy has led to their membership in the United States Delegation to the United States Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and recognize the contributions made by the Space Foundation and commemorate their 25 years of excellence in support of this Nation.

Mr. FEENEY. I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close.

With that, I want to thank Mr. LAMBORN and urge the resolution's adoption by the full House.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to congratulate Mr. LAMBORN for his recognition of this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support it. The most important thing that I saw as a physical science teacher in high school for many years, particularly during the years of the Apollo missions to and from the Moon, was the excitement of young people, and this is exactly what this resolution is about and what the space advocacy has been about.

I urge support of House Resolution 1312.

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. 1312.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1315) commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1315

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was established on July 29, 1958;

Whereas on May 5, 1961, NASA successfully launched America's first manned spacecraft, Freedom 7, piloted by Alan B. Shepard, Jr.;

Whereas in July of 1969 President John Kennedy's vision of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth was realized with the Apollo 11 mission, commanded by Neil A. Armstrong, Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., and Command Module pilot Michael Collins;

Whereas on April 12, 1981, NASA began a new era of human space flight and exploration with the launch of the first Space

Shuttle Columbia, commanded by John W. Young and piloted by Robert L. "Bob" Crippen;

Whereas NASA has greatly expanded our knowledge and understanding of our planet and solar system through various unmanned vehicles utilized on numerous missions;

Whereas, during the Cold War, NASA's achievements served as a source of national pride and captured the imagination of the world by demonstrating a peaceful use of our technological capabilities;

Whereas NASA now serves as a model for international cooperation and American leadership through the International Space Station and other scientific endeavors;

Whereas thanks to NASA and the far-reaching gaze of the Hubble Space Telescope, we have seen further into our universe than ever before;

Whereas NASA space probes have landed on or flown by eight of the planets in our solar system;

Whereas the aeronautics research by NASA has led to great discoveries and advances in aircraft design and aviation;

Whereas the work done by NASA has expanded the scope of human knowledge, created new technologies, and inspired young men and women to enter scientific and engineering careers;

Whereas in the last fifty years, NASA has positively impacted almost every facet of our lives; and

Whereas, thanks to the heroism, courage, and supreme sacrifice of our astronaut corps over the last five decades, we are now able to live and work in space for the benefit of all men: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary;

(2) acknowledges the value of NASA's discoveries and accomplishments; and

(3) pledges to maintain America's position as the world leader in aeronautics and space exploration and technology.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON).

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. 1315, 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.

I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, whose many outstanding achievements have provided many immeasurable benefits for the United States and the world.

It was 50 years ago this month, specifically July 29, that President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 that established NASA. At that time, the American public was still reeling from the impact of the Soviet Union's successful

launch of Sputnik 1 in late 1957 which led to the space race with the Soviets. That race came to an end less than 12 years later when American astronauts successfully landed on the Moon and returned safely to Earth. NASA was the agency that led the effort to create a human space flight program from scratch and make America preeminent in space.

Yet as remarkable as NASA's achievements were in getting America to the Moon as well as to building the Shuttle and Skylab and the International Space Station, NASA has excelled in many other areas. NASA's aeronautics research and development activities over the past half century have led to significant advances in both civil and military aircraft. NASA's aeronautics programs have also helped to make America's aviation system a world leader in safety and have improved our quality of life in numerous ways.

In addition to human space flight and aeronautics, NASA has created space and Earth science programs that are second to none in the world in terms of advancing knowledge of our planet and of our universe. One only has to look at the ways in which the Hubble telescope, for example, has rewritten the astronomy textbook since its launch in 1990 to know that NASA's space-based science programs are really some of the Nation's premier research endeavors.

In addition, NASA's technology developments have rippled through our economy in countless ways, delivering new materials, new processes, and new systems that have had a major impact on things as diverse as health care and weather forecasting.

And finally, NASA continues to be a source of inspiration to our young people and a symbol to the world of America's technological and scientific preeminence. These are important realities that we should not overlook when we debate funding for NASA.

Mr. Speaker, investing in NASA has been and continues to be an investment in our future. I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution along with Mr. MCCAUL. I urge all of our Members to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleague and friend from the Houston area for his support in this resolution.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 1315, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, otherwise known as NASA. NASA was founded on July 29, 1958. On May 5, 1961, the first American was launched into space on Freedom 7, and that was Alan Shepard. On July 20, 1969, President Kennedy's dream was fulfilled when Apollo 11 landed on the Moon. Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the Moon at that time, and the first space shuttle Columbia launched on April 12, 1981.

NASA has inspired generations of interest in science and engineering in young people. I remember taking one of the astronauts through my school district all the way from Houston to Austin, Texas, and just the hope and the dreams that she and NASA's program inspires in our young people, particularly in the fields of math and science, is truly an inspiration, I think, for all of us as Members of Congress.

NASA's work has really led to technological and scientific advantages that benefit everyone in society, including satellite communications. We all use cell phones. Lord knows we all use our BlackBerrys here in Congress and elsewhere. We have a great understanding of the human body because of the knowledge gained during man's space flight.

□ 1230

This program, based at the Johnson Space Center in Mr. LAMPSON's district and not too far from mine, is an important part of the Houston area economy. More than 15,000 people are employed at the Johnson Space Center, and NASA's work is an example of how the government and the private sector can work together to make this world a better place.

It's vital that the Congress act, in my view, to minimize the gap between the retirement of the space shuttle and the start of Orion, to maintain our leadership role in space exploration. And through the International Space Station, NASA currently serves as a model of international cooperation.

NASA's work has greatly expanded our knowledge of our universe. The Hubble Telescope, as my colleague from Houston talked about, launched in 1990, is still providing us with useful data and bringing the schoolchildren the wonders of space. NASA has sent probes to eight different planets in the solar system.

We can't think about the space program without the President who launched it, President Kennedy, and when he explained why space exploration is so important and so necessary, he said, "The exploration of space will go ahead, whether we join it or not, and it is one of the greatest adventures of all time, and no Nation which expects to be the leader of other Nations can expect to stay behind in this race for space . . . We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for all people."

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Ms. RICHARDSON).

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1315, commemorating the 50th anniversary of NASA.

With the exception of apple pie and baseball, few reflections resonate

across America of how proud we are of all of the work that NASA has done.

Since its inception in 1958, NASA has been the leading agency for American and global innovation. Indeed, the creation of NASA was responsible for introducing a whole new generation of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians here in the United States.

Likewise, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of NASA, it is important to adhere to the continuing commitment we should make as a Nation to embrace innovation, and reach the unachievable, but we, as Members of Congress, must back that up with funding.

As a member of the Science and Technology Committee, I was fortunate to view in person the launch of the Space Shuttle Endeavor on March 10, 2008, where I witnessed at night the best and the brightest orchestrated through its operations and through its making history.

From making commercial aviation safer, to studying climate change, and strengthening international partnerships, which we desperately need at this time, the scientists at NASA continue to do advanced research on the issues that affect our daily lives.

I would like to applaud my colleague on the Science and Technology Committee, Representative MCCAUL, for bringing this thoughtful resolution to the floor and also to Mr. LAMPSON for his commitment to this issue.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1315, commemorating the 50th anniversary, and we hope that there will be many to come.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for 4 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in strong support of this resolution, H. Res. 1315, honoring NASA on its 50th anniversary.

As an original cosponsor of this resolution, I'd like to commend my colleagues from the Science Committee, the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. LAMPSON, the ranking member, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, for introducing the thoughtful resolution commemorating NASA on this important milestone for our country.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, NASA has not only been the leader in human space exploration, but has successfully used technological capabilities like, as mentioned by my colleagues, the Hubble Telescope and GPS systems. I anticipate the men and women of NASA, they will continue being the true leaders and innovators in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak today, NASA is undergoing aggressive research to convert domestic energy sources, coal, natural gas, biomass, oil shale, into cleaner and more economical alternatives to traditional jet fuel. Now, why is that important? It's important, Mr. Speaker, because in the

year 2003, the NASA agency spent \$4.5 million on their jet fuel, 4.6 million gallons. In 2007, 4 years later, they spent \$18.3 million. So they're doing this research in conjunction with the Department of Defense and the United States Air Force to try to find alternative sources of fuel to lower the costs to the government.

And everybody in this chamber, everybody in this Nation, knows that we are suffering tremendously from a lack of supply and a tremendous demand, and that's why we're paying \$4.11 a gallon for regular gasoline.

We can solve this problem, but there's one little glitch, and that's the Democrat Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which absolutely prohibits NASA and the Department of Defense from utilizing any petroleum source other than conventional petroleum if it's not as clean.

Well, in times like these, when the country's on the verge of bankruptcy, I think the first priority, Mr. Speaker, should be to lower the price of gasoline, and let NASA continue to research so that we can make the conversion of shale which has something like 1.3 trillion barrels of petroleum embedded in that rock and that we can convert coal to liquid, to petroleum. We have 1.5 trillion tons of coal in this country, and we only use about 1 billion tons a year. We have a tremendous excess amount of coal right here in River City, and yet, this energy bill the Democrats passed last year prohibits us from going after this source, increasing the supply so that the price of gasoline at the pump goes down.

And I would implore my colleagues to bring these bills to the floor. They're over there. There's a discharge petition. Republicans have signed them, just a handful of Democrats. We need to bring these issues to the floor, have an up-or-down vote. At least give NASA and the Department of Defense a waiver of section 526 so that we can solve this problem and we're not so dependent on these foreign Nations that hate our guts, countries such as Venezuela and countries in the Middle East.

It's time to act. I commend the committee for bringing this resolution. It's a great resolution honoring NASA on its 50th anniversary. I support it fully, but I also support a balanced approach to solving our energy needs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1315 honoring NASA on its 50th anniversary. As an original cosponsor of this resolution, I would like to commend my colleague from the Science Committee, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, for introducing this thoughtful resolution to commemorate NASA on this important milestone for our country.

Mr. Speaker, there is no Federal agency that has risen to the challenge of innovation over the last 50 years like NASA. We, as a nation, are today the fortunate heirs of NASA's legacy: conviction, resolve, achievement.

When the Soviets put a man into orbit, NASA was challenged by President Kennedy—in the truest form of the American com-

petitive spirit—to put men on the moon. Many of our NASA pioneers paved the way for the crew of *Apollo 11*—Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins—to reach that once unattainable goal. Now, those famous words, "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind" exemplify the legacy that NASA has established.

Over the years, NASA has not only been the leader in human space exploration, but has successfully used technological capabilities like the Hubble Telescope to explore the far reaches of our galaxy. Given the precedent of achievement that NASA has set, I anticipate the men and women of NASA to continue being among the true leaders and innovators in the years to come.

While this resolution represents a time for us to celebrate the achievements of NASA over the past 50 years, this is also a time to reflect and memorialize those who gave their lives in their service to NASA and the Nation—particularly the crews of *Apollo 1* in 1967, the *Challenger* in 1986, and the *Columbia* in 2003. The sacrifices that these men and women made in the service of our country will always remind us of the fragile nature of human life, and the risks associated with successes that NASA has accomplished.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to take this time to think about the impact and legacy that NASA has left our great Nation over the last 50 years, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1315.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I will reserve the balance of my time for right now.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY).

Mr. FEENEY. I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I'm thrilled to be part of the celebration of NASA's 50th anniversary with this House Resolution 1315.

NASA was created 50 years ago in the wake of the former Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik. Sputnik provided the perception of Soviet superiority in military power and scientific achievement.

To counter that challenge, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was founded for conducting America's civilian space program.

NASA actually succeeded the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, a splendid organization founded in 1915 that produced gems of aeronautical research. Now the task was to extend America's reach from the air to space.

NASA did so. Satellites were launched to monitor the weather, relay communications, and explore our solar system. America's human spaceflight program, Project Mercury, began. Astronauts were selected in 1959, and in 1960, NASA began planning a manned lunar landing.

The rest became an integral part of the American identity, not just for us but for how the rest of the world views the American experience: our journeys to the Moon; the space shuttle; the International Space Station; Apollo 13's harrowing journey; the tragedies of Apollo 1, the Shuttle Challenger, and

the Shuttle Columbia; the Hubble Space Telescope; the robotic exploration of other planets; the monitoring of our dynamic Earth; and of course, the wonder of flight itself. All done in the full view of the world.

Today, America is the world's premier spacefaring Nation. For 50 years, the men and women of the NASA family have brought great honor and prestige to this country. Today, the House of Representatives honors those people, past and present.

We will continue that legacy. Last month, this House overwhelmingly passed a NASA reauthorization bill that lays out a comprehensive blueprint for sustaining a healthy and vigorous NASA. Considerable care has been devoted to all elements of NASA's portfolio, human spaceflight, Earth and space sciences, and aeronautics. We must never relinquish our leadership in space.

And yet, today in the Washington Post, the Washington Post points out that just like competition on Earth, space is now a global competitive environment, and I quote the Washington Post from today's edition. "Space, like Earth below, is globalizing. And as it does, America's long-held superiority in exploring, exploiting and commercializing 'the final frontier' is slipping away, many experts believe."

I agree with that assessment. Slowly but steadily, we are allowing our historic lead in space to slip away, and this House and the Senate and the next administration needs to step to the forefront. We're experiencing increasing competition from China, from India, from Japan, from Russia, from the European Space Agency, and increasingly, many others.

In the aftermath of the Shuttle Columbia accident, America rededicated itself to human spaceflight. We vowed to resume flying the shuttle, complete the International Space Station, and then build and fly a new generation of spacecraft that will take America beyond orbiting the Earth. The Moon will be the first of many destinations.

When this vision was announced, one of the first responses came in an editorial in The Daily Telegraph. Sometimes those living "across the pond" are the best way to observe the American people. Here's what the editorial said. "Americans, thank Heaven, are a restless, inquisitive, pioneering people. The concept of exploration, of an ever-expanding frontier, is central to their identity in a way that some Europeans find hard to understand."

As the world watches, NASA displays this fundamental part of our American character, and that is appropriate. For we explore space not just for ourselves, we do so for all of humankind.

Mr. LAMPSON. I yield myself 2 minutes, Mr. Speaker.

I've listened with interest to Congressman GINGREY's comments a few minutes ago about the advancements that NASA has made with regard to its energy usage. It has been tremendous.

On last Tuesday, I happened to have been at the Johnson Space Center watching the operation of the new lunar rover. It is a six-wheeled, actually double wheels, vehicle that runs entirely on battery power and has a magnificent amount of strength and longevity. It's the research that NASA has done in the development of better batteries, longer life for batteries, and the fact that they have been able to develop solar power to the extent that the International Space Station is entirely powered with solar collectors that are on that station, and the research that they are doing to increase the opportunity for us to be able to gather solar power in space and beam it down to Earth for our use, that continues to show the technological advancements and capabilities of our NASA, of our National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The work that they have done on the development of fuel cells and hydrogen, all of these magnificent technologies have come because of the commitment that they have had to look at new and different and better ways of doing things. And thank goodness they have looked at it in exactly the way Dr. GINGREY was saying, balanced.

We've got to find a way to make sure that we're looking at all sources of energy, and NASA is showing exactly how to accomplish that task.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me say once again how proud I am have to have introduced this resolution. I appreciate the support of the gentleman from Texas, my friend and colleague, and the support of the colleagues on my side of the aisle as well.

The NASA space program has proven to provide a great return on our investment in terms of Federal research and development dollars, and I would urge this Congress to continue that investment.

□ 1245

A recent article in The Washington Post today outlined that the U.S. finds it's getting crowded out in terms of dominance in space as other nations step up their efforts. China plans to conduct its first spacewalk in October. The European Space Agency is building a roving robot to land on Mars. And India recently launched a record 10 satellites into space on a single rocket. We cannot fall behind. That is not the intent, the purpose, the vision of NASA.

"Space, like Earth below, is globalizing. And as it does, America's long-held superiority in exploring, exploiting and commercializing the final frontier is slipping away," according to this article, "many experts believe."

And although the United States remains dominant in most space-related fields and owns half the military satellites currently orbiting Earth, experts say the Nation's superiority is diminishing and many other nations are expanding their civilian and commer-

cial space capabilities at a far faster pace.

Michael Griffin said, "We spent tens of billions of dollars during the Apollo era to purchase a commanding lead in space over all nations on Earth." However, this agency's budget is down 20 percent since 1992. According to Mr. Griffin, "We've been living off the fruit of that purchase for 40 years and have not chosen to invest at a level that would preserve that commanding lead."

We have authorized funding for NASA. I was proud to support that; I think we can do better. We need to continue to support this very important program which provides not only great scientists and engineers for this country, but allows us to be competitive globally in all areas, including science and technology and energy, but also in the wonders of space.

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) for his work on this legislation to bring attention to the wonderful work of the people who have run our National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Mr. MCCAUL made reference earlier to teachers and students going and visiting the Johnson Space Center in Houston. I remember taking students and classes myself back around 1970—actually, before we stepped foot on the Moon in 1969—and the wonderment, the excitement that all of the people who have had anything at all to do with NASA have been able to instill in young people, causing them to want to go and study math and science and engineering. What a great thing to do. And what a great day to be able to stand and say congratulations on 50 years of service and operation and advances in technology for our country and for the world.

So this is fitting that we support House Resolution 1315 in commemoration for NASA in its 50 years of operation. I ask all of my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1315, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

NASA has made a major impact on our national competitiveness in space and aeronautics research.

Since the Sputnik era of the late 1950s, the United States has established world leadership in space flight. Along with that accomplishment, our Nation's investments in NASA have created a strong aeronautics and engineering workforce. This intelligent, talented, well-prepared workforce is one of NASA's most powerful legacies.

NASA is of great economic importance to Texas. Johnson Space Center employs 15,000 civil servants and contractors. An untold number of small spin-off companies have been formed as a result of good ideas from the brain power at NASA.

Research discoveries from our time in space have also greatly benefited our populace.

Each year since 1976, NASA has published a list of every commercialized technology and product linked to its research.

The NASA journal "Spinoff" highlights these products, which have included things like improved pacemakers, state-of-the-art exercise machines and satellite radio.

All of these everyday products have stemmed from NASA-funded research: Invisible braces; scratch-resistant lenses; memory foam; the ear thermometer; shoe insoles; long-distance telecommunications; adjustable smoke detectors; cordless tools; and water filters.

During my 15 years on the House Committee on Science and Technology, I have proudly advocated for strong support of NASA.

Its education activities, particularly its efforts to encourage under-represented minorities to pursue engineering and science careers, are exemplary.

I want to congratulate the great work that NASA has done in its 50 years of existence to conduct research that benefits all members of our society.

May the next 50 years be as productive and as successful as the first.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1315, Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA. As we mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United States space program, this legislation reaffirms the ever growing and changing role of NASA, providing resources to carry the agency forward with its ambitious agenda of research, exploration, and discovery. I would like to thank Congressman MCCAUL for introducing this important legislation, as well as the Science Committee Chairman for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today.

I have long supported NASA and I have offered an amendment to H.R. 6063, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008.

My amendment clarifies that the NASA Outreach and Technology Assistance Program will include small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses. It would also give preference, in selection of businesses to participate in the program, to socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and HUBZone small business concerns.

Mr. Speaker, today's resolution will allow NASA to continue to push the boundaries of what is possible, keeping our Nation on the forefront of innovation and exploration. After the *Columbia* disaster, NASA stands at a pivotal moment in its history. It is the responsibility of this Congress to ensure that the future of NASA is one of continued progress. Space exploration remains a part of our national destiny. It inspires our children to look to the stars and dream of what they too, one day, may achieve. Space exploration allows us to push the bounds of our scientific knowledge, as we carry out research projects not possible within the constraints of the planet Earth. As a Nation, we have made tremendous strides forward in the pursuit of space exploration since President John F. Kennedy set the course for our nation in 1962, calling it the "greatest adventure on which man has ever embarked." Despite the setbacks of recent years, including the tragedy that befell

the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, NASA and the American people have refused to abandon the pursuit of knowledge of our 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 and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory have been involved in many defining events occurred 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. "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 the Houston area.

Today, NASA is the Nations' primary civil space and aeronautics research and development agency, and its current activities employ over 18,000 Americans. Today's legislation reaffirms the fundamental operating principles of NASA, emphasizes the importance of NASA leadership in a range of endeavors such as Earth observations and research, aeronautics reach and development, and an exploration program.

Always on the forefront of technological innovation, NASA has been home to countless "firsts" in the field of space exploration. America has, countless times, proven itself to be a leader in innovation, and many technologies that have become part of our everyday lives were developed by NASA scientists. The benefits of NASA's programming and innovation are felt far beyond scientific and academic spheres. Space technologies provide practical, tangible benefits to society, and NASA provides valuable opportunities to businesses in our community.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation, and in support of the future of American innovation and exploration.

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. 1315.

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.

FEDERAL OCEAN ACIDIFICATION RESEARCH AND MONITORING ACT OF 2008

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4174) to establish an interagency committee to develop an ocean acidification research and monitoring plan and to establish an ocean acidification program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4174

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2008" or the "FOARAM Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Interagency subcommittee.
- Sec. 5. Strategic research plan.
- Sec. 6. NOAA ocean acidification activities.
- Sec. 7. NSF ocean acidification activities.
- Sec. 8. NASA ocean acidification activities.
- Sec. 9. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

- (1) The oceans help regulate atmospheric chemistry by acting as the largest sink for carbon dioxide.
- (2) The rapid increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide is overwhelming the natural ability of the oceans to absorb this gas.
- (3) The influx of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and the subsequent absorption by the oceans is changing surface ocean carbon chemistry and lowering the pH. These changes in ocean chemistry are detrimental to organisms including corals, which support one of the richest habitats on Earth, marine shellfish, and many other organisms that form the base of the food chain for many fish and marine mammals.
- (4) The rich biodiversity of marine organisms is an important contribution to the national economy and the change in ocean chemistry threatens tourism, our fisheries, and marine environmental quality, and could result in significant social and economic costs.
- (5) Existing Federal programs support research in related ocean chemistry, but gaps in funding, coordination, and outreach have impeded national progress in addressing ocean acidification.
- (6) National investment in a coordinated program of research and monitoring would improve the understanding of ocean acidification effects on whole ecosystems, advance our knowledge of the socioeconomic impacts of increased ocean acidification, and strengthen the ability of marine resource managers to assess and prepare for the harmful impacts of ocean acidification on our marine resources.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to provide for—

(1) development and coordination of a comprehensive interagency plan to—

(A) monitor and conduct research on the processes and consequences of ocean acidification on marine organisms and ecosystems; and

(B) establish an interagency research and monitoring program on ocean acidification;

(2) assessment and consideration of regional and national ecosystem and socioeconomic impacts of increased ocean acidification; and

(3) research on adaptation strategies and techniques for effectively conserving marine ecosystems as they cope with increased ocean acidification.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) OCEAN ACIDIFICATION.—The term "ocean acidification" means the decrease in pH of the Earth's oceans and changes in ocean chemistry caused by chemical inputs from the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) SUBCOMMITTEE.—The term "Subcommittee" means the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology of the National Science and Technology Council.

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY SUBCOMMITTEE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology of the National Science and Technology Council shall coordinate Federal activities on ocean acidification.

(b) DUTIES.—The Subcommittee shall—

(1) develop the strategic research and monitoring plan to guide Federal research on ocean acidification required under section 5 of this Act and oversee the implementation of the plan;

(2) oversee the development of—

(A) an assessment of the potential impacts of ocean acidification on marine organisms and marine ecosystems; and

(B) adaptation and mitigation strategies to conserve marine organisms and ecosystems exposed to ocean acidification;

(3) facilitate communication and outreach opportunities with nongovernmental organizations and members of the stakeholder community with interests in marine resources;

(4) coordinate the United States Federal research and monitoring program with research and monitoring programs and scientists from other nations; and

(5) establish or designate an Ocean Acidification Information Exchange to make information on ocean acidification developed through or utilized by the interagency ocean acidification program accessible through electronic means, including information which would be useful to policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders in mitigating or adapting to the impacts of ocean acidification.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Subcommittee shall transmit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives that—

(A) includes a summary of federally funded ocean acidification research and monitoring activities, including the budget for each of these activities; and

(B) describes the progress in developing the plan required under section 5 of this Act.

(2) BIENNIAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the delivery of the initial report