

Americans were united in those days in their zeal for space; the Apollo Moon landing being the greatest technological advancement in the history of mankind. Some writers described those times as a Camelot era, where people respected their President, even if they didn't vote for them. Not until 9/11 had I seen Americans as united as they were around the Apollo program.

Space, of course, is important to our national security. It is important to our economic prosperity. It is important to our technological advancement.

I ask people how often they benefit from space, and the response usually averages, 6 percent say they benefit from space once a year; 4 percent say they benefit from space once a month; and only 2 percent say they benefit from space once a week. And we won't even go to once a day.

I guess those people have roosters in the backyard that give them their weather reports. They don't pay any attention to the images we have from the satellites. I guess they don't use cell phones, or use credit cards, or even make cash transactions, because those are all satellite-linked.

Ultimately, space is important to us for the ultimate survival of our species.

Neil deGrasse Tyson lectured our Science, Space, and Technology Committee several years ago on the benefits of space. And while he was here, he gave a lecture for staff and Members over at the Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress; very well-attended and well-taken.

During his presentation, he mentioned that space is the only thing Congress really spends money on to truly benefit the next generation, and I believe that. I believe those are trees that we plant without the expectation of being around to enjoy all the shade.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee for helping keep space a bipartisan issue. I hope we can build on the legacy of *Apollo 11* and that, some day, our children and their children can come together and enjoy positive achievements for their generation and generations to follow.

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COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "APOLLO 11" MOON LANDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. McADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McADAMS. Mr. Speaker, in the lead-up to the *Apollo 11* Moon landing's 50th anniversary, people across our country, including many from my State, Utah, have been sharing their memories of this historic event and its inspiration in their lives. Some of the lucky ones played a role in helping the space program reach this historic achievement.

Brigham Young University graduate Charlie Bunker remembers watching

from a common room of a boardinghouse in downtown Denver. Charlie's companion was an Amish gentleman who turned to him and asked if he thought the astronauts were really going to land on the Moon. Charlie said, yes, he was sure, because he worked at a place where they made the rockets that helped to get them there.

Charlie was a physicist who remembers, as a 19-year-old, President John F. Kennedy issue his challenge to America to go to the Moon. And after graduating from college and getting married, Charlie landed a job with the Hughes Corporation in Los Angeles for a starting salary of \$8,000 a year. He worked on Surveyor, a NASA-funded program that sent unmanned rockets to the Moon. That work led to being hired by Martin Marietta, a Denver-based aerospace company.

Charlie and his family were living temporarily in the boardinghouse on the history-making night of the Moon landing. Charlie worked for Martin Marietta for nearly 40 years, including the last few years in Utah.

When the Deseret News asked readers to answer whether they remembered where they were on July 20, 1969, they received hundreds of responses. Several Utahns who were serving in the military wrote in, and one wrote: "I was returning from a night mission over the Ho Chi Min trail in Laos as a pilot of a B-57. I remember it was a clear night with a full Moon, and my navigator and I were listening to the radio broadcast on Armed Forces radio at 30,000 feet. Later, my wife and I had Neil Armstrong to dinner in Paris while I was Air Attache to France."

Another wrote: "I was at building No. 9 Manned Spacecraft Center, now called the Johnson Spacecraft Center, in Houston. NASA set up big TV screens and chairs for NASA employees and their friends. I remember the pride and accomplishment of the mission and celebrations from NASA engineers and contractors. I remember it like it was yesterday."

Apollo 11 and the Moon landing was a jewel in NASA's crown at the time. It set the foundation for many future American achievements in space.

Sixteen years later, Utah Senator Jake Garn became the first sitting Member of Congress to fly in space when he flew aboard the space shuttle *Discovery* as a payload specialist in 1985.

The closest I have gotten to the Moon—to date, anyway—is when, as the mayor of Salt Lake County, I placed the Clark Planetarium Moon rock into the Zions Bank vault for safekeeping. The planetarium was undergoing renovation, and we transferred our precious Moon rock under the watchful eye of law enforcement to its secure and temporary home.

Our planetarium is one of many across the country that benefits from Apollo's legacy and brings science education to life for students in Utah. Those students will soon hopefully be-

come the engineers, the mathematicians, and the explorers who will chart the next five decades of space research and space travel.

Here in Congress, I am proud to sit on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, where we continue our forebearers' legacy of bipartisan investment in our Nation's space program. Apollo inspired a generation of scientists and Americans, and some day soon, my four children may become space travelers themselves when space tourism becomes a reality. They will stand on the shoulders of the thousands of dedicated men and women who dreamed the impossible dream and then made it a reality.

THE PUSH FOR SPACE IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago this week, a group of astronauts launched from Kennedy Space Center in Merritt Island, Florida, embarking on a journey of discovery into uncharted territory.

July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong took one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind on the surface of the Moon. Armstrong and fellow astronaut Buzz Aldrin spent 2½ hours collecting samples and taking photographs. Critically and importantly, they left behind an American flag and some of the most famous footprints in history, sealing America's place as the leader of the space renaissance in the international space race.

Our journey to outer space was born out of a desire to discover, but that wasn't the only reason we went to the Moon. We also went to the Moon to compete with Russia, specifically regarding protecting our Nation's security. That competition still exists today, but it is even more serious now because of our economic and our military dependency on space and because, in addition to Russia, we now have China explicitly stating its intent to surpass America as the leader in space.

Russia and China have made it clear their intention is not just to explore space, but to prepare themselves for conflict. Russia and China both know that they will never be able to take us on tank to tank, carrier to carrier, plane to plane, so they have decided in their national security strategy to take us out in space if we ever have to come to blows.

This is why I fully support the creation of the space force. This is why space has now been declared a warfighting domain. And if we don't prepare ourselves, our very way of life will be at significant risk.

Our banking, our financial institutions, our global logistics, our telecommunications systems all depend on space. So the 21st century space race is on, and America must lead, and this is why the push for space resources and funding today is absolutely critical.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I see how national security and space intersect every day. And as a Floridian, space is something that is absolutely in my DNA.

It is from, of course, Florida's Kennedy Space Center that our astronauts launched to the Moon, and I know that Florida will be a key player when we go back to the Moon once more in 2024 and as NASA, the U.S. military, and American industry work together to maintain American leadership in space. In my district in northeast Florida, we are very fortunate to have companies that once again will assemble the lunar landers to help NASA get back to the Moon.

So looking back on this historic Moon landing 50 years later, I hope we will all remember what an incredible moment this was for our country. Our American values and American ingenuity have taken us to new worlds not just on Earth, but beyond. It is an honor to celebrate these accomplishments here today, and it is absolutely critical that we continue exploring and we continue innovating.

But it is also equally critical that we fully understand that our competitors seek to supplant our leadership role in space, and they are not in line with our values. We cannot and will not allow that to happen.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCH OF THE "APOLLO 11"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the launch of *Apollo 11*, the spacecraft that sent Americans to the Moon.

On September 12, 1962, before a crowd of 40,000 spectators at Rice University in Houston, President John F. Kennedy announced the ambitious goal of sending Americans to the Moon before the end of the decade.

On July 20, 1969, we got there. Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the surface of the Moon, and 19 minutes later Buzz Aldrin became the second.

More than 600 million people around the world watched Armstrong take his first step live on television. The first words they heard on the Moon were "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed," followed by the observation, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

As a native Houstonian and the Representative of Texas' Seventh Congressional District, these historic words are seared in my mind. The *Apollo 11* mission was more than just an amazing technological advancement, it brought Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs together toward a common goal and a common purpose. It made people a part of something bigger than them-

selves, perhaps bigger than they had ever imagined.

More than 400,000 Americans worked to make the *Apollo 11* mission a success, many of them based at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. From the support crew to the flight directors at mission control, to the space suit designers, to the human computers, engineers, and scientists who designed and built the hardware and software, to the custodial staff who worked in the building to make sure that they had a place to work, and to every small job in between, *Apollo 11* was the result of a historic collaboration across our country.

The resounding success of the Apollo program served to captivate the world's attention and cemented America's status as a leader in scientific discovery and technological innovation, and it taught us what we as Americans can do, what we can accomplish when we work together toward a common goal. What we learned from this mission is that, when we do that, even the sky is not the limit.

AMERICA MUST REMAIN THE LEADER IN SPACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo 11* mission.

In his famous 1961 speech at Rice University in Houston, Texas, President John F. Kennedy challenged the Nation to put a man on the Moon by the end of the decade. President Kennedy spoke these now famous words: "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

President Kennedy understood the importance of American leadership in space. He added: "Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man, and only if the United States occupies a position of preeminence can we help decide whether this new ocean will be a sea of peace or a new, terrifying theater of war."

Military professionals will tell you that whoever occupies the high ground in a conflict has the upper hand. Folks, there is no higher ground than space. America must remain the leader in space. It is just that simple.

In 1969, the crew of *Apollo 11* fulfilled that very mission to put a man on the Moon. Today, we honor not only the astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, but all of the great NASA men and women who worked tirelessly to make the *Apollo 11* mission a success.

We have learned about the hidden figures of the Apollo program, those behind the scenes. Here are some more.

At the height of the Apollo program, according to one estimate, 1 in 50 Americans were working on some aspect of the program. This included some 400,000-plus full-time employees.

The astronauts knew their lives depended on these people, most of whom they never knew nor would they ever meet, that were performing difficult tasks on a very demanding schedule.

Over 530 million people around the globe watched the telecast of Armstrong's first steps from 250,000 miles away. Not only did *Apollo 11* show the world what America can achieve, but it displayed a beautifully unique ability of human space exploration, its capacity to stimulate, to inspire, and to cause people to reach deep inside to find the very best they had to offer.

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American greatness is a compilation of these things. On that day, we spread our message of American greatness around the globe.

Fifty years ago, the politics of a volatile world order compelled us to the challenge of space competition. The world has changed, and in today's uncertainty, one thing remains certain: the importance of American preeminence in space.

Now, we turn our focus to a new challenge. We will send Americans back to the Moon's surface by 2024, only this time, to stay. It has been a long time since man walked on the Moon. In 2024, we will make history once again when the first woman walks on the Moon.

With our great NASA's lead, the private and public sectors are coming together to accomplish this great and very difficult task. Through their partnerships, American excellence is leveraged across the board. We are building sustainable, reusable systems that will not only take us to the Moon but leapfrog us to Mars.

Our great NASA is bringing Democrats and Republicans together in what I call American togetherness.

Thank God for NASA.

CELEBRATING HIDDEN FIGURES OF "APOLLO 11" MISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, the *Apollo 11* mission sent a crew of pioneering women on a journey of incredible significance. All were astronauts.

Symbolically, it was a representation that with enough hard work, dedication, and will, America could achieve the seemingly impossible.

The mission left lasting imprints, from the eternal footprints left on Tranquility Base to the values engraved into an entire generation.

The Moon landing inspired all who watched it to believe in the power of innovation, dedication, and most especially, unwavering courage. But today, I want to draw attention to some of the unseen heroes of the *Apollo 11* mission. I will refer to them as the "hidden figures."

Ms. Katherine Johnson, Ms. Dorothy Vaughan, and Ms. Mary Jackson have