

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the *Apollo 11* mission this week, I rise to pay tribute to the achievements of the past, and to urge my colleagues to set our sights on the potential of the future.

The historic steps taken by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin 35 years ago will be remembered by future generations as one of the greatest accomplishments of the 20th Century. While these steps were taken on another world, they were born right here on Earth. That was an exciting time in my district in North Alabama, which is the home of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and the von Braun rocket team. Wernher von Braun, Marshall's first Director, led the development of the roadmap for putting humans on the Moon. Through bold thinking, ingenious engineering, and a lot of good old-fashioned hard work, NASA's engineers and scientists built the colossal Saturn V—a rocket powerful enough to take our astronauts out of the tight grasps of Earth's gravity.

*Apollo 11* established the U.S. as the world's leader in space and boosted our economy with technology and innovation. But the most important benefit realized from the *Apollo 11* moon landing may have been the effect it had on the children of that era—it inspired them—us—to dream—to reach for the stars. Like generations before, those who come after us have an inherent desire to explore the unknown.

It is appropriate during this special week for us to give consideration to the future of space exploration, which has been put before us in NASA's new space exploration vision. It begins with the return to flight of the Space Shuttle, and the completion of the ISS as a unique scientific laboratory. It includes the robotic exploration of our solar system and the universe beyond. And it includes the extending of human exploration beyond Earth's orbit—first to the Moon, and then ultimately onto Mars.

To be sure, realizing such a vision will require advances in space transportation systems. But advances in transportation have always opened new frontiers for our civilization. Examples include the first ocean-crossing ships of the New World explorers, the stage coaches and trails of the Great American West, the first transcontinental steam locomotives, the first automobiles off the assembly line, the flight of the Wright Brothers, and the historic escape of the Earth's gravity by the Apollo program. During the era, each of these advances required valuable resources and an unusually high degree of risk-taking, but the return on investment, unpredictable at the time, turned out to be tremendous. Each of these advances would ultimately change the very fabric of our society.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a few seconds to highlight some results from a Gallup poll on Space Exploration that was just released yesterday.

According to this Gallup poll, over two-thirds of the respondents are interested in America's space program, and only 11% were not interested at all. A majority of the adults surveyed—68%—agree that it is important for the Nation to have a space program that uses both human and robotic exploration. Almost two-thirds of the adults surveyed believe that space exploration should be funded at or above the current level. And 68% of the public supports the space exploration vision, at the funding level of 1% of the Federal budget.

So you see that while we stand here today to honor the epic accomplishments of the past, Americans look forward to realizing the great achievements of the future. Mr. Speaker, I close by extending my congratulations to the many people across our Nation who had a hand in that historic mission 35 years ago.

Today, as Americans, we remember *Apollo's* race to the Moon with pride, wonder, and awe. And we look forward to many more missions of extraordinary achievement and discovery from our Nation's space program.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the *Apollo 11* mission and honor a native of the 4th district of Ohio, Neil Armstrong. As mission commander, Armstrong was first to step on the lunar surface at 10:56 p.m., EDT on July 20, 1969. His immortal words—"That is one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"—will resonate in our hearts and minds forever.

Neil Alden Armstrong took his first steps in Wapakoneta, Ohio. Born to Stephen and Viola Armstrong, Neil developed an early interest in flying. At age six, he took his first airplane ride in Warren, Ohio in a Ford Tri-Motor plane nicknamed the "Tin Goose". He began taking flying lessons at the age of fifteen and had his student pilot's license before graduating from Blume High School in 1947.

While in college at Purdue University, he was called up for active duty in the Navy and was sent to Korea as an aviator. During the war, he flew seventy-eight combat missions from the aircraft carrier USS Essex. Following the war, Armstrong joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and was sent to the Lewis Research Center near Cleveland, Ohio (today the Glenn Research Center) where he was an engineer and test pilot. At Lewis and later at NASA's Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, Armstrong flew over 200 different models of aircraft while pursuing a master of science degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California.

In 1962, Armstrong was transferred to astronaut status and moved to El Lago, Texas, where he underwent four years of training for the Apollo program. He commanded his first space mission as pilot for *Gemini VII*, but his most famous mission came when *Apollo 11* launched on July 16, 1969. Armstrong and the two other astronauts, "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, spent eight days in space and 2½ hours on the Moon's surface.

For his work as an astronaut, Armstrong received the Medal of Freedom, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, and the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Neil Armstrong went where no one had gone before and helped our Nation become the leader in space exploration. This man from rural Ohio paved the way for generations to continue to explore and dream of the far reaches of our universe. As our Nation embarks on future space travels, we need to take time to honor those explorers who carved out a new path for us to follow.

□ 1700

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 723.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HALL. 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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 723, the resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2443, COAST GUARD MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT FOR 2004

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-618) on the resolution (H. Res. 730) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2443) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4259) to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the financial accountability requirements applicable to the Department of Homeland Security, to establish requirements for the Future Years Homeland Security Program of the Department, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4259

*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 "Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Influential financial management leadership is of vital importance to the mission success of the Department of Homeland Security. For this reason, the Chief Financial Officer of the Department must be a key figure in the Department's management.

(2) To provide a sound financial leadership structure, the provisions of law enacted by