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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 813

Offered January 21, 2005

Memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact and fully fund the proposed vision for the NASA exploration program.

Patrons—BaCote, Alexander, Amundson, Armstrong, Barlow, Baskerville, Brink, Eisenberg, Hall, Hamilton, Hull, May, Melvin, Miles, Miller, Moran, Petersen, Scott, J.M., Shannon, Ward and Watts

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the United States has a proud heritage of leading the world in exploration and discovery on land, under the seas, and in outer space; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has played a leading role in expanding America's exploration initiatives throughout history, as evidenced by adventures ranging from the settlement of Jamestown, to establishing the first aeronautics research laboratory, to training the Apollo astronauts and exploring the surface of Mars; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of America's frontier from the original 13 states to the outer reaches of our solar system has resulted in immeasurable benefits to all humankind through development of new technologies and commercial spin-offs, the creation of new jobs across the entire economic spectrum, economic growth through creation of new commercial products and markets, the creation of advanced educational opportunities, and the establishment of a legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, space exploration, particularly as carried out under the auspices of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has generated discoveries and indirect economic and social benefits; has been proven to ignite American students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and has led to the creation of the Explorer Schools, Challenger Centers, Distance Learning Programs, and the NASA Educator Resource Centers; and

WHEREAS, NASA Centers—Langley Research Center and Wallops Flight Facility—both recognized for their outstanding research facilities and contributions to the nation's aerospace program, jointly contribute to local and state economic development, including the direct employment of more than 4,700 people within Virginia; and

WHEREAS, NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton is a world-renowned center for the research and development of many cutting-edge aerospace technologies and is a model for creating a consortium of university, government, and private sector entities to foster collaborative research and development, such as the National Aerospace Institute, National Consortium for Aviation Mobility, Technology Commercialization Center, and the Virginia Space Grant Consortium; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's colleges and universities and many of Virginia's large and small business interests have all benefited from nearly \$3 billion of NASA funding that has come into the state in the past five years; and

WHEREAS, NASA has a long and proven history in performing the courageous and sometimes costly work of charting frontiers, and it is clear that allowing the agency to carry on with this important work is in the long-term best interests of this nation; and

WHEREAS, the talent, technology, and infrastructure exist in Virginia to provide resources that will be essential to carrying out NASA's future missions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Congress of the United States be urged to enact and fully fund the proposed vision for the NASA exploration program as submitted to Congress in the Fiscal Year 2006 budget to enable the United States to remain a leader in the exploration and development of space, aeronautics, and earth sciences; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly express its support of NASA in the continued development of the space station and other NASA infrastructure, the use of such infrastructure in ongoing and new research projects, and the efforts to return to the moon and to venture to Mars and other planets in the solar system; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

INTRODUCED

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