

## 2012 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 234

*Commending John Herschel Glenn, Jr.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 27, 2012  
Agreed to by the Senate, February 2, 2012

WHEREAS, February 20, 2012, marks the 50th anniversary of John Herschel Glenn, Jr.'s, historic *Mercury-Atlas 6 Friendship 7* flight, the first manned orbital mission of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished veteran of World War II and the Korean War, John Glenn spent several years as a test pilot before being selected as one of the original seven astronauts in the United States space program; and

WHEREAS, as a Project Mercury astronaut, John Glenn was assigned to NASA Space Task Group at Virginia's Langley Research Center in Hampton, where he received training in preparation for his mission; and

WHEREAS, the Space Task Group then relocated to Houston and became part of what is now the Johnson Space Center; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 1962, John Glenn was launched into space aboard the Mercury capsule *Friendship 7* from the Cape Canaveral Launch Complex 14 and became the first American to orbit the Earth; and

WHEREAS, John Glenn completed three orbits of the planet, reaching an approximate altitude of 162 statute miles and an approximate orbital velocity of 17,500 miles per hour over the course of almost five hours before landing in the waters off Grand Turk Island; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable technological feat inspired the nation, demonstrating that American ingenuity and determination could break barriers that had previously been thought to be impenetrable; and

WHEREAS, the spectacular success of the fledging space program instilled in students across the country a desire to study math, science, and engineering and stimulated the minds and imaginations of people across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, John Glenn has embodied the ideals of American citizenry, serving his country as a soldier, astronaut, and United States Senator; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend John Herschel Glenn, Jr., on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his piloting the first manned orbital mission of the United States; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to John Herschel Glenn, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his tremendous accomplishments in space exploration and the scientific advancement of the United States.

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