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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 112

Offered January 14, 2008

Commending NASA on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Patrons—Miller, J.C., Locke, Norment and Northam

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is a leader in the Space Age as evidenced by, among other accomplishments, conceiving and managing the United States' first manned space program, improving the performance and safety of vehicles in all flight regimes, implementing vital Earth and space science missions, successfully exploring the surface of Mars, and opening the frontiers of commercial space; and

WHEREAS, over the next year, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is celebrating 50 years of space exploration, scientific discovery, and research, including signature accomplishments, innovations, and discoveries that are enduring icons of human achievement that have improved and shaped our lives on Earth in a myriad of ways; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is fortunate to have two NASA Centers—Langley Research Center and Wallops Flight Facility—both recognized for their outstanding research facilities and critical contributions to the nation's aerospace program, including playing key roles in developing technologies to carry out NASA's future missions and returning humans to the Moon and beyond; and

WHEREAS, these NASA facilities in Virginia and their partners make significant contributions to local and state economic development, by powering innovation that creates new jobs, markets, and technologies and generating \$1.2 billion in economic output and creating 12,200 jobs within the Commonwealth alone; and

WHEREAS, NASA enriches the quality of life for all Americans; contributes to safer, more environmentally friendly and efficient air travel and a better understanding of our home planet; and creates an enduring legacy for future generations, including inspiring students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, NASA is now nearing the completion of the International Space Station and retiring the Space Shuttle Fleet, while looking forward to the next generation of spacecraft that will continue exploration; and Virginia is a leader in this mission with two NASA Centers and extensive involvement from our academic community, commercial and private sectors, and educational institutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend NASA for 50 years of scientific and technological excellence and continuing to power us into the 21st century, which will preserve the United States' leadership in space exploration; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to NASA in recognition of its 50th anniversary and as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude and hope for its continued success in the exploration and development of space, aeronautics, and earth sciences.

INTRODUCED

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