

One Hundred Ninth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the third day of January, two thousand and six*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas Space Shuttle Columbia was the first manned, reusable spacecraft that was flown into orbit without benefit of previous unmanned orbital test flights;

Whereas the Space Shuttle Columbia was the first spacecraft to launch with wings, using solid rocket boosters;

Whereas the Space Shuttle Columbia was the first reentry spacecraft to land on a conventional runway;

Whereas the Space Shuttle program has allowed the United States to partner with other nations to build and to inhabit the International Space Station;

Whereas the successful return to flight of the Space Shuttle represents the first leg of the Nation's Vision for Space Exploration;

Whereas the men and women of America's Space Shuttle program have been instrumental in ensuring the Nation's preeminence in space exploration for 25 years;

Whereas the very specialized and highly valued workforce of the Space Shuttle program will contribute greatly to the Vision for Space Exploration as we return to the Moon, and go on to Mars and beyond;

Whereas, like the explorers Lewis and Clark who explored our great Nation, John Young and Robert Crippen opened a new era of human exploration beyond our planet; and

Whereas heroes such as John Young and Robert Crippen are a great inspiration to our next generation of Americans as they stimulate interest in the study of math and science: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) congratulates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the 25th anniversary of the first flight of the Space Transportation System;

(2) honors Commander John Young and the Pilot Robert Crippen, who flew Space Shuttle Columbia on April 12–14, 1981, on its first orbital test flight; and

(3) commends the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and all those supporting

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America's space program for their accomplishments and their role in inspiring the American people.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.