I would like to thank my colleagues Ms. GIFFORDS and Mr. ROHRABACHER for their support of the bill, along with the original cosponsors.

I urge adoption of my resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 287 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the launch of *Explorer I* and the birth of an era of United States space exploration.

On January 31, 1958, the United States officially entered space as *Explorer I* successfully reached orbit. At a time when our Nation feared the worst from the Soviet Union, the successful launch of *Sputnik* supercharged anxiety. Our Nation responded, and responded quickly.

Explorer I, however, was more than just an emphatic response to *Sputnik*. It was achieved important scientific discoveries, as well. As mechanical engineer Carl Maggio noted, all involved ''liked the difference between our satellite and Sputnik,'' because ''ours flew science, the Van Allen experiment.'' Indeed, amongst the numerous discoveries made by Explorer I, one of the most important was the discovery of the Van Allen radiation belt, a discovery that would be considered as one of the most outstanding discoveries of the International Geophysical Year.

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to visit the home of *Explorer I*—Jet Propulsion Laboratories. Seeing this extraordinary accomplishment in person, I couldn't help but feel a swell of pride knowing that this satellite was the humble beginning of our Nation's esteemed space program. An old proverb holds that even the greatest of journeys begins with a single step. The launch of *Explorer I* was that first step, and it helped pave the way for a half-century of space exploration. Today, JPL missions have rovers on Mars, evaluating soil samples on a microscopic level.

To conclude, I would like to quote the NASA Chief historian Steven J. Dick, who observed that ''Like the railroad and the airplane, spaceflight has impacted society in ways even the visionaries could not have foreseen, and that we cannot fully fathom even today.'' Indeed, through the space program, we continue to make important discoveries whose benefits amaze generations to come.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res 287, recognizing the anniversary of the launch of *Explorer I*. The launch of *Sputnik I* by the Russians in October 1957 created alarm in the U.S. Many Americans were fearful of what a Russian space program meant for our country.

However, the United States quickly responded. In just 84 days scientists built the *Explorer I* satellite that would begin the next 50 years of space exploration. Scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory collaborated under the leadership of Dr. William Pickering to manufacture what would become *Explorer I*. On January 31, 1958, the United States launched its first satellite into space. Once in orbit, the satellite collected data on cosmic rays. The scientific data was important, but the beginning of our space program was also important for the assurance it provided Americans. *Explorer I* signaled we would not fall behind Russia in space.

Today we continue to rely on scientists, engineers, and mathematicians to solve the pressing problems of our day. These innovators continuously rise to the challenges we as a Nation face. *Explorer I* stands as a milestone in space, and foreshadowed what we would achieve in just 50 years.

Today, the United States remains a leader in space: landing humans on the moon; exploring our solar system; and gaining a better understanding of our land, oceans, and atmosphere. We must continue to reach for new goals in space. By doing so, we continue our leadership of this world and lead humanity to a brighter destiny.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. FEENEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, not having any other speakers, I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 287.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE X PRIZE FOUNDATION

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 907) congratulating the X PRIZE Foundation's leadership in inspiring a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 907

Whereas the United States is heavily dependent on foreign sources of oil that are concentrated in tumultuous countries and regions;

Whereas the national security and economic prosperity of the United States demand that we move toward a sustainable energy future;

Whereas the ability of foreign governments to assert great control over oil production allows unfriendly regimes to use energy exports as leverage against the United States and our allies;

Whereas continued reliance on the use of greenhouse gas intensive fuels may impact global climate change;

Whereas the automotive sector is heavily dependent on oil, which makes Americans vulnerable to oil price fluctuation and is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas average fuel economy in the United States has increased slowly during the last 20 years;

Whereas many promising technologies exist that can lead to a breakthrough vehicle that will meet the need for sustainable transportation;

Whereas breakthroughs are often achieved by the free market fueling the entrepreneurial spirit of inventors and investors;

Whereas the Automotive X PRIZE is a private, independent, technology-neutral competition being developed by the X PRIZE Foundation to inspire a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that help break our addiction to oil and stem the effects of climate change;

Whereas the Automotive X PRIZE will award a multimillion dollar reward to teams that can design, build, and demonstrate production-capable vehicles that achieve 100 MPG or its equivalent; and

Whereas such prize competitions generate involvement and innovation across a broad spectrum of known and untapped talent such as the $25,000 Orteig Prize won by Charles Lindbergh which leveraged $400,000 worth of additional research by teams trying to win the prize and spurred a $250,000,000,000 aviation industry, and the $10,000,000 Ansari X Prize which leveraged $100,000,000 worth of additional research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the X PRIZE Foundation's leadership for inspiring a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that help break our addiction to oil through the Automotive X PRIZE competition;

(2) congratulates the X PRIZE Foundation on their innovation and vision to bring together some of the finest minds in the public and private sectors, including government, academia, and industry, to advise and participate in the Automotive X PRIZE competition; and

(3) applauds the X PRIZE Foundation's ongoing commitment to find solutions to some of humanity's greatest challenges as exemplified in the Automotive X PRIZE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Resolution 907, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2004, Space Ship One became the first privately funded craft to take a person into space. Space Ship One flew again on September 29, 2004, and on October 4, 2004, and upon successful completion of these flights, Mojave Aerospace Ventures, the developers of Space Ship One, captured the $10 million Ansari X PRIZE. Just as important as Space Ship One's historic flights, the competition for the X PRIZE spurred the creation of a private spaceflight industry in this country.

It is with this past success in mind that I rise to speak in support of the new Automotive X PRIZE. This new prize will award a multimillion-dollar prize to teams that can design, build and demonstrate production-capable vehicles that achieve 100 miles per gallon or its equivalent. With the current price of oil hovering around $100 per barrel, it is more important than ever that our country develops technologies that increase the efficiencies of our

automobiles. To this end, I was pleased to support H.R. 6, which significantly raised CAFE standards, and would do much to increase the efficiency of American automobiles.

However, the government does not hold a monopoly on innovation. Many of the great discoveries of our time were accomplished by private individuals and companies. From Thomas Edison's discovery of the light bulb to Henry Ford's perfection of the automobile, private innovators have changed the face of America. It is my hope that the Automotive X PRIZE will once again spur the creative and innovative spirit of American citizens to help us in our fight for energy independence and security.

I would like to thank Mr. LUNGREN for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 907, as amended, which recognizes and congratulates the forward-thinking X PRIZE Foundation on one of its latest contest endeavors, the Automotive X PRIZE.

There is a rich history in this country of prizes sponsored by private entities leading to innovations in science and technology. Starting with the Ansari X PRIZE, the privately funded X PRIZE Foundation has successfully been able to build on the concept of the 1927 Orteig Prize, which awarded $25,000 to the first person to be able to make a nonstop transatlantic flight. While the actual Orteig Prize name may not be well known, the recipient of this prize, Charles Lindbergh, certainly is. The benefits of the $400,000 of investment teams made in an effort to win this prize certainly have been realized, and the $250 billion aviation industry that took off shortly thereafter certainly continues to prosper. Likewise, the 2004 Ansari X PRIZE leveraged over $100 million in research by teams vying for a $10 million price for private spaceflight. Won by Mojave Aerospace Ventures, the Ansari X PRIZE changed the public's perception of personal spaceflight.

Now the Automotive X PRIZE is poised to produce similar results for the next generation of automobiles, viable, super-efficient vehicles. As the resolution states, our ''national security and economic prosperity demand that we move toward a sustainable future.'' This prize certainly helps us move in that direction. It will be awarded to the team that can design, build and sell super-efficient cars that achieve 100 miles per gallon and are not concept cars, but cars that people will want to buy. If successful, the end result in and of itself will be impressive, but the overall benefits to the Nation will be too numerable to measure. This prize, like those before it, will generate millions of privately funded research dollars producing research that may not in the end win the prize, but could spur additional technologies. Likewise, this prize will stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit of inventors and investors alike, both known entities and brilliant minds working in backyard garages.

I congratulate the X PRIZE Foundation's leadership in creating a private, independent competition designed to help move us closer to a sustainable energy future. I wish them much success, look forward to seeing the results it produces, and encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

With that, I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no recognized Members, I think Mr. FEENEY does, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 1 minute to Dr. BARTLETT, my friend from Maryland.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago, Shell Oil Company sent out a press release saying that by no later than 2015 the world would not be able to meet the demands of our economies for oil and natural gas. At just about the same time as that, a group came to my office to brief me on the Automotive X PRIZE. You may have noticed how much harder people will work for a prize than they will for money. Just note the Olympics and what these athletes will do for a prize. So I am very, very supportive of this fantastic idea. I bought the first Prius in Maryland, I bought the first Prius in Congress, and I want to buy the winning car from this competition.

I have here a note from Donald Foley, who is the executive director of the Automotive X PRIZE, and he has noted my desire to buy that winning car. So hopefully we will be driving that to the Congress in not too long.

Thank you very much for yielding.

□ 1530

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my colleague and friend from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, prizes have a history of encouraging innovation by promoting competition and expanding the talent pool to include a numerous and diverse array of groups and individuals. Those unable or unwilling to secure grants can participate in the race for the goal. With prizes, government funding is not used to pick technological winners and losers. The prize is only awarded if the goal is met. Prizes encourage the investment of private capital and research, even beyond the monetary value of the prize.

I applaud the X PRIZE Foundation for spurring competition and innovation in the race to a more efficient automobile. When the 100 mile-per-gallon vehicle is achieved, citizens of my home State of Nebraska will be able to drive across the State on Interstate 80 on only 4½ gallons of fuel. This tremendous efficiency would dramatically reduce our Nation's dependence on foreign oil, it would stimulate our economy, and certainly improve our national security.

I am grateful for the vision and enterprise of men like Dr. Peter Diamandis who kindle the spark of innovation that leads to revolutionary technologies.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make sure that I check with Mr. SMITH whether that is stopping for red lights that takes 4½ hours to go across Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 907, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN KENYA

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 283) calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 283

Whereas on December 27, 2007, the citizens of Kenya went peacefully to the polls to elect a new parliament and a new President and signaled their commitment to democracy by turning out in large numbers and, in some instances, waiting in long lines to vote;

Whereas on December 29, 2007, the opposition presidential candidate, Raila Odinga, was reportedly over 300,000 votes ahead of the incumbent with 90 percent of the precincts reporting;

Whereas on December 30, 2007, the head of the Electoral Commission of Kenya (''ECK'') declared that Mwai Kibaki won the presidential election by 197,000 votes;

Whereas Mr. Kibaki was sworn in as President within an hour of the announcement of the election results, despite serious concerns raised about the legitimacy of the election results by domestic and international observers;

Whereas the lack of transparency in vote tallying, serious irregularities reported by election observers, the implausibility of the margin of victory, and the swearing in of the Party of National Unity presidential candidate with undue haste, all serve to undermine the credibility of the presidential election results;

Whereas the Government of Kenya imposed a ban on live media that day, and shortly