

CONGRATULATING NELSON  
MANDELA ON HIS 93D BIRTHDAY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I join all people in South Africa and across the world in celebrating the Honorable Nelson Mandela's 93d birthday on July 18, 2011. Mandela is an inspirational leader who braved 27 years of imprisonment fighting to free South Africa from the racial oppression of apartheid, and ultimately unified the nation as its first President elected in a free South Africa.

Madiba is my personal hero because he fought and suffered for what was right and did not emerge bitter from the experience. I still remember his graciousness and good humor when I first met him; he started laughing and said, "No, this is not the sponsor of the bloody Rangel Amendment." I am proud to have met and worked with him to bring freedom and dignity to the oppressed in South Africa.

In honor of his birthday, the United Nations recognizes July 18 as Mandela Day. To pay tribute to Mandela's tireless 67-year effort in addressing the biggest issues we face, from combating HIV/AIDS to brokering global peace, we are asked to dedicate 67 minutes to do something for others in need.

I pledge to continue his work to help those in need and encourage everyone to do so as well.

IN HONOR OF THE "ATLANTIS"  
AND THE SHUTTLE PROGRAMS'  
FINAL MISSION: THE ATLANTIS  
STS-135—FERGUSON—HURLEY—  
MAGNUS—WALHEIM

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2011*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Atlantis . . . Hail Atlantis! This, final thrust  
. . . This The Shuttle's Final Mission,  
so as such!

Five . . . Four . . . Three . . . Two . . . One  
. . . Ignition . . . lift off!

As up towards the heavens you now so rush!  
As on this day as is such . . . with this your  
last and most final journey, all our  
hearts but lie in a hush! As from The  
Beginning . . . now to The End!

Oh how so quickly, we've all so been taken  
to so then . . . To such new heights  
we've all so sped!

So shuttled to back and forth, time and  
again!

And because of all of this, to what new  
world's will we one day so transcend?

All because of The Discovery's, The Endeavor's  
. . . that went forth all in your  
stead!

As The Challenger, who so met and held that  
course!

To new Columbia's, with your most heroic  
force! All in your most heroic blood so  
shed!

As to lost worlds discovering, and to new  
ones Atlantis you now report!

Let this Enterprise so continue to go forth!  
Of all of these most distant travelers, all out  
on their most heroic course!

And let not this quest so end!

All in our search for the answers, the truth  
that we all must so comprehend!

Let Us Go Forth, all in our hearts of youth  
begin!

And for all of those many journey's, over all  
of those years.

As have so here, to Man and Womankind  
meant so much!

While, out upon the face of God you've all so  
stared! So sped!

All out there on the very edge of death, hur-  
dling through space as you left!

As your fine hearts would so crest!

And because of all its majestic beauty, all in  
tears you were so left!

As with this final thrust, suddenly how all of  
those years have so come and gone!

By so fast, so sped!

To find answers, to all of those questions . . .  
to which all our hearts must so be led!

While, soaring to new heights . . . as you'd  
crest!

As you've appeared to us so very bright, all  
in what was said!

As out on the night's horizon, streaking  
across her skies at dusk in flight . . .  
full speed ahead!

With all our hopes and dreams, and fears . . .  
so carried with you up there, as one we  
were wed!

As together, we've all so waded through . . .  
through all of those most heartbroken  
tears!

With all of those broken hearts and dreams,  
that which so tragically appeared . . .

With but the loss of, all of those most mag-  
nificent courageous pioneers!

As but exploration's grave cost so very clear!  
Of The Challenger and The Columbia so here!

With all of those fine lives so lost so very  
dear! SMITH, SCOBEE, McNAIR,  
ONIZUKA, McAULIFFE, JARVIS,  
RESNIK, BROWN, HUSBAND, CLARK,  
CHAWLA, ANDERSON, McCOOL,  
RAMON . . .

Brave Hearts, all out in their search for new  
frontiers!

Who so boldly so went forth without fear!

As for them and their families, but hear our  
Nation's prayers . . . her tears!

As now all of their fine souls are so etched  
across the heavens, appear's!

As a lesson to all of our young, as to what  
new heights and worlds . . .

A heart of courage can so climb to, can so  
come!

As on this day Atlantis, as you So Search  
For The Truth! All in your hearts of  
youth, so sung!

While, Reaching For The Stars . . . soaring  
ever forth, as brilliant, as brilliant as  
any sun!

All in your quest for knowledge, but Let  
This Dream Live On!

Let not this be the end, but the beginning of  
new dreams and suns to form!

As on this Mission, The Shuttle Program so  
comes to her end!

Let us give praise and thanks, to all of those  
who have so shown!

So shown us all the way to courage and  
faith,

whose most magnificent hearts have so car-  
ried us with them on their ways . . .

Who once upon a time, let their dreams take  
flight to new heights . . . as did they!

And go, where no women or man before has  
so gone!

Who upon all of them, all our very futures  
are so born!

While, upon such magnificent structures of  
Man . . . to new heights they would  
soar!

All because of their most courageous hearts  
telling them, To Go Forth and Explore!

As up to the heavens, and outer space  
defying death again once more so spo-  
ken all with such grace!

To take Command, as now they so race!  
And to all those, who upon this earth who  
have stood by them so close!

Who at Mission Control,  
have so shown such brilliance and such vigi-  
lance, when it all so meant the most!

As The Centurions, The Guardians,  
of all of those distant travelers up in outer  
space, who counted upon you, would  
boast!

Living with them, on the very edge of death  
as you would host . . .

As on each new day, all of their very lives  
were placed!

All in what they so faced!

Let not this so be the ending, but the begin-  
ning . . . but to keep so sending!

To so sending up explorers to new worlds, up  
in outer space!

To a world of hopes and dreams, where such  
hearts of youth can so race . . .

Can so plan and scheme . . . Like JFK's  
Dream, this pace!

But, to continue this most important race!  
And Go Forth!

But to find the answers, to new celestial  
worlds as we are advancing . . .

As already, from all of their gifts, so much  
has so come forth, exists!

And yet, so much more but still lies ahead  
. . .

all in our travels up in outer space, all in  
what is to be written . . . so said!

For only if we go forward steadfast, will all  
of our futures so be blessed, as come to  
pass!

So Hail Atlantis, as you take that one last  
pass . . . around this earth . . .

Take one last long hard look, one last long  
glance all in its worth!

For all of us here so down upon this earth, as  
you pass! So, ever must we Endeavor to  
Discovery!

To find in you Atlantis, new worlds to ex-  
plore and see!

So Godspeed! Godspeed, fair well Atlantis as  
you speed!

As you and your kind, are but the very  
height to where Man and Womankind  
can so be led!

Because, whenever we ENDEAVOR . . . in  
our ENTERPRISE to entertain such  
thoughts . . .

To rise! All in our DISCOVERY, from hearts  
of courage what can be brought forth  
. . .

No matter what the cost, and not com-  
promise!

To new worlds and lost shores, to chart our  
course evermore . . . to new COLUM-  
BIA'S this force . . . or an ATLANTIS  
to so explore!

Then, will we win as THE CHALLENGER!  
And to this our world, but all of our fu-  
tures to so insure!

To learn and to grow, to therein there so . . .  
but to fine the answerers!

Of The Universe, to so strive for and know!  
All bathed in exploration's warm glow!

That which lies before us so!

Hail Atlantis!  
Hail Atlantis!

Hail Atlantis!  
Hail Atlantis!

As You Soar! As You Go!