

first steps, and these were the men who pushed the frontier and made those first steps.

Neil Armstrong's name will be one of the few iconic names from our era that are found in history books 1,000 years from now. Most people know him as a brave astronaut who commanded Apollo 11; but before those days, Neil Armstrong was an outstanding aeronautical engineer and a great pilot for the U.S. Navy and for the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics, the NACA, a precursor to NASA. Neil flew over 900 missions at the NACA High-Speed Air Station, and that very center is what we seek to name in his honor today.

At the same time, we wish to continue to recognize the major and significant contributions of Dr. Hugh Dryden, one of the world's greatest aeronautical scientists who provided critical leadership to the NACA and is reported to be the man who gave President Kennedy the idea that a Moon landing was the right benchmark for America to set as we worked to catch up with the Soviet Union in space.

Today we honor these great men, and by supporting this legislation, we will continue to support them in every way and continue to support NASA in its test-flight mission.

Let us not forget so many people just associate NASA with space, and Neil Armstrong is one of those people. But as I've just pointed out, their work in developing new technology for aerospace and for jet engines and the design of airplanes has had a tremendous impact on our way of life and made America the great aerospace power in the world. So as we honor them today, we reconfirm our commitment to being the number one space power and the number one aerospace power on the planet.

Ms. EDWARDS. I'd inquire if the gentleman is prepared to close as well.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to close. We have no other speakers, and I'm prepared to yield back the balance of my time after the gentleman from Maryland.

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

I am pleased today that we've been able to bring forward H.R. 667.

Former Chairman HALL was here today, and we had an opportunity to do this in the last Congress. So hopefully, in honor of these two gentlemen, real tremendous patriots and heroes and pioneers, we will be able to bring forward H.R. 667 and rename the Dryden Center after Neil Armstrong. I'm grateful to be here to do that with our colleagues.

It is sad, however, that here we are on a Monday, prepared to honor these two great patriots of NASA, of this Nation, and at the same time, by the close of the week, on March 1, enable a sequester to take effect which could result in the loss of \$894 million from NASA's budget, a budget that would include science, technology, engineering,

investigation of climate change, and all of the things that we need to prepare this next generation to be as inspired as our generation was with the exploits and exploration of Hugh Dryden and Neil Armstrong. Yet here we are.

□ 1730

So I am pleased to go forward in supporting this legislation today, making sure that on a Monday we are able to take a vote to rename these two centers and to honor these two pioneers. But I am sad that here in this Congress we are also prepared to cut millions of dollars in a budget that should be spent on the kind of science and exploration that both of these gentlemen pioneered.

When we think of what needs to be done for the next generation in order to inspire future scientists and those who will work in technology—our engineers, our math students—we regret that they won't see that same kind of inspiration because of the irresponsibility of this Congress. I want to say how pleased I am as I look forward to working with Chairman SMITH, because I know of his commitment to science and to technology, and I know of his commitment to NASA and to moving forward an agency that's going to propel us in 21st century space science and in aeronautics, but this is not the way to do it.

While we do our renaming today in honor of Hugh Dryden and in honor of Neil Armstrong, we will take an ax hammer to NASA's budget on March 1, at the end of this week, taking out \$894 million from an already strapped budget. I dare say that future generations will not be inspired by what this Congress will do, will not be inspired by what the majority is doing by not allowing us and enabling us to sit down and actually negotiate in a way that is going to result in our making the kind of investment in the 21st century that our young people deserve.

Again, I am pleased to be able to redesignate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Dryden Flight Research Center as the "Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center" and to rename the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the "Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range"—renaming but slashing a budget.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Maryland—who is also the ranking member of the Space Subcommittee—for her comments, particularly for her personal comments, and I certainly share her concerns about the severe cuts that NASA and our space exploration programs might take if the sequestration goes into effect, but I also feel compelled to point out that there is a way to avoid that sequestration.

The House of Representatives, under the Republican leadership, has already

passed two bills that would take the place of the sequestration, and the Senate has yet to act. After all, the sequestration was the President's idea to start with, so I hope we will hear from the President and the Senate various suggestions as to how the sequestration can be avoided, but the House has certainly done its job to avoid those heavy-handed cuts.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 667.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, by the yeas and nays; and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 667, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 303, nays 91, answered "present" 1, not voting 36, as follows: