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HOUSE MEMORIAL 68

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO MAINTAIN FULL
CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY AND
INSTALLATIONS IN LAS CRUCES, ALAMOGORDO, DONA ANA COUNTY AND
SURROUNDING AREAS.

WHEREAS, the importance of the aerospace industry and
installations in southern New Mexico cannot be overestimated;
and

WHEREAS, the history clearly establishes the role of the
White Sands test facility, White Sands missile range and
Holloman air force base in developing America's preeminence in
space flight and aerospace development; and

WHEREAS, the White Sands test facility, a part of the
national aeronautics and space administration's Johnson space
center that was formed as part of the Apollo program, is

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1 located outside of Las Cruces; and

2 WHEREAS, the United States space shuttle missions and
3 aerospace industry and installations directly and indirectly
4 employ tens of thousands of New Mexicans; and

5 WHEREAS, the White Sands test facility plays a critical
6 role in the national aeronautics and space administration's
7 space mission in the fields of materials testing, propulsion
8 systems and more; and

9 WHEREAS, after World War II, Holloman air force base was
10 considered for closure before the air materiel command
11 announced on March 16, 1947 that the airfield would be its
12 primary site for the testing and development of pilotless
13 aircraft, guided missiles and other research programs; and

14 WHEREAS, at that base, Lieutenant Colonel John P. Stapp
15 received the nickname "the fastest man alive" when he rode a
16 rocket-propelled test sled, Sonic Wind No. 1, to a speed of six
17 hundred thirty-two miles per hour; and

18 WHEREAS, Holloman air force base is home to the world's
19 longest and fastest high-speed test track, which is over fifty
20 thousand feet in length and was used to set the land speed
21 record of six thousand four hundred fifty-three miles per hour;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the space shuttle orbiter *Columbia* landed in a
24 dust storm at White Sands space harbor, when, after seven days
25 in space, the space shuttle could not land at its original

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1 destination in California because of a flood; and

2 WHEREAS, approximately seventy-five percent of all space
3 shuttle training flights have been conducted at White Sands
4 space harbor; and

5 WHEREAS, for each space shuttle mission, White Sands
6 missile range is prepared to accept an orbiter landing for an
7 in-flight emergency or as a weather contingency alternate to
8 the primary landing sites at Kennedy space center and Edwards
9 air force base; and

10 WHEREAS, the space shuttle projects at White Sands test
11 facility, White Sands missile range and Holloman air force base
12 have had a significant impact on the economic life of Las
13 Cruces, Alamogordo, Dona Ana county and surrounding areas; and

14 WHEREAS, the space shuttle projects at White Sands have
15 had a remarkable place in the history of aviation and military
16 affairs and have fostered deep pride in New Mexico and the
17 nation; and

18 WHEREAS, collectively, these facilities not only played an
19 invaluable role to the nation's preeminence in aerospace
20 exploration but a very significant economic role in the
21 southern New Mexico communities in which they are located; and

22 WHEREAS, having high-wage employment opportunities from
23 the space shuttle mission and related aerospace industries has
24 helped Las Cruces, Alamogordo, Dona Ana county and surrounding
25 New Mexico communities flourish; and

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