

By Representative Allen

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House Resolution

A resolution commemorating 40 years of
Americans in space.

WHEREAS, Project Mercury, the first United States
man-in-space program, made a total of six suborbital and
orbital flights to investigate human ability to function in
space, and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 1962, Mercury Astronaut John
Glenn became the first American to orbit Earth, and

WHEREAS, since Friendship 7 was launched 40 years ago,
more than 250 Americans have orbited Earth, explored the moon,
deployed satellites to explore the universe, conducted
scientific research, expanded our understanding of the
environment, and furthered international cooperation, and

WHEREAS, the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs of
the past have paved the way for the Space Shuttle and
International Space Station programs of today, and the
programs of today are paving the way for our future beyond
Earth's boundaries, and

WHEREAS, the benefits of human exploration of space
have positively impacted many areas of our lives and have kept
the United States on the cutting edge of space exploration and
scientific discovery for the last four decades, and

WHEREAS, today's Canaveral Spaceport in the State of
Florida has been the launch site of all American human
missions to space and, over the past 40 years, thousands of
Floridians have dedicated their lives to the peaceful
exploration of space, and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2002, at the Kennedy Space
Center, the remaining Mercury Astronauts, John Glenn, Scott

1 Carpenter, Wally Schirra, and Gordon Cooper, will commemorate
2 the 40th anniversary of Americans in orbit, NOW, THEREFORE,

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4 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
5 Florida:

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7 That the House of Representatives hereby recognizes and
8 commends the Mercury Astronauts and all of the heroes of the
9 United States space program for their contributions to the
10 people of the State of Florida, the nation, and the world.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
12 be presented to representatives of the Kennedy Space Center as
13 a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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