

HR 9045

2016

## House Resolution

1  
2 A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of  
3 Astronaut and United States Navy Captain Edgar Dean  
4 "Ed" Mitchell.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Edgar Dean "Ed" Mitchell was born September 17,  
7 1930, in Hereford, Texas, and moved to Artesia, New Mexico,  
8 during the Great Depression, and

9 WHEREAS, Edgar Mitchell first learned to fly at age 13, was  
10 active in the Boy Scouts of America achieving the rank of Life  
11 Scout, and was inducted into the DeMolay International Hall of  
12 Fame; and he enjoyed handball, tennis, swimming, scuba diving,  
13 and soaring, and

14 WHEREAS, Captain Mitchell graduated from Artesia High  
15 School, received a bachelor of science degree in industrial  
16 management from the Carnegie Institute of Technology, earned a  
17 degree in aeronautical engineering from the United States Naval  
18 Postgraduate School, and a doctorate of science degree in  
19 aeronautics and astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of  
20 Technology, and

21 WHEREAS, Captain Mitchell worked relentlessly for 9 years  
22 to enter the Astronaut Corps and was selected for the Apollo  
23 program in April 1966, served on the support crew for Apollo 9,  
24 and as backup lunar module pilot for Apollo 10, and

25 WHEREAS, in 1970, when Apollo 13 suffered an onboard  
26 explosion that aborted the mission and nearly killed its crew,

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27 Captain Mitchell was called on to advise in the effort that  
28 returned the astronauts home safely and was awarded the  
29 Presidential Medal of Freedom for his successful efforts, and

30 WHEREAS, on January 31, 1971, Edgar D. Mitchell, Stuart A.  
31 Roosa, and Alan B. Shepard, Jr., lifted off from the Kennedy  
32 Space Center at Cape Canaveral aboard Apollo 14, and, on  
33 February 5, 1971, Captain Mitchell, serving as lunar module  
34 pilot on Apollo 14, landed the Lunar Module "Antares" in the  
35 hilly upland Fra Mauro Highlands region of the moon, and

36 WHEREAS, on February 5, 1971, Captain Mitchell became the  
37 sixth person ever to walk on the moon, and

38 WHEREAS, on February 9, 1971, the three astronauts returned  
39 to Earth, splashing down in the South Pacific Ocean and  
40 restoring America's confidence in the Space Program after the  
41 near tragedy of Apollo 13, and

42 WHEREAS, Captain Mitchell continued in the Apollo program  
43 and served as backup lunar module pilot for the Apollo 16  
44 mission before retiring from the National Aeronautics and Space  
45 Administration in 1972, and

46 WHEREAS, in 1975, Captain Mitchell made Florida his  
47 permanent home, and

48 WHEREAS, in the late evening of February 4, 2016, on the  
49 eve of the 45th anniversary of his Apollo 14 mission, Captain  
50 Mitchell began his final trip to the Heavens, and

51 WHEREAS, Captain Mitchell is survived by his children  
52 Karlyn, Elizabeth, Kimberly, Paul, and Mary Beth; nine

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53 grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and was preceded in  
54 death by his son Adam, and

55 WHEREAS, Captain Mitchell and all of the Apollo Astronauts  
56 embody the drive, sacrifice, determination, and fortitude that  
57 make the United States a great country and serve as models for  
58 our children and grandchildren, NOW, THEREFORE,

59

60 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
61 Florida:

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63 That the life and accomplishments of Apollo 14 Astronaut  
64 and United States Navy Captain Edgar Dean "Ed" Mitchell are  
65 honored and memorialized and heartfelt sympathy is extended to  
66 his family upon his death, and

67 That the lives and service of all who work or have worked  
68 in the Space Program in the State of Florida are honored and  
69 recognized for their unique and lasting impact on our state, our  
70 nation, and the world.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
72 presented to the family of Captain Mitchell as a tangible token  
73 of the sentiments expressed herein.