The success of the United States space exploration program in the 20th century augurs well for its continued leadership in the 21st century. This success is largely attributable to the remarkable and indispensable partnership between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and its 10 space and research centers. One of these important research centers is located in my home city of Houston. The Johnson Space Center, which manages the development, testing, production, and delivery of all United States human spacecraft and all human spacecraft-related functions, is one of the crown jewels of NASA and a lodestar Houston area. The other nine research and space centers are:

1. The Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley provides products, technologies, and services that enable NASA missions and expand human knowledge in areas as diverse as small spacecraft and supercomputers, science missions and payloads, thermal protection systems and information technology.

2. The Dryden Flight Research Center, the leading center for innovative flight research.

3. The Glenn Research Center, which develops power, propulsion, and communication technologies for space flight systems and aeronautics research.

4. The Goddard Space Flight Center, which specializes in research to expand knowledge on the Earth and its environment, the solar system, and the universe through observations from space.

5. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the leading center for robotic exploration of the Solar System.

6. The Kennedy Space Center, the gateway to the Universe and world leader in preparing and launching missions around the Earth and beyond.

7. The Langley Research Center, which continues to forge new frontiers in aviation and space research for aerospace, atmospheric sciences, and technology commercialization to improve the way the world lives.

8. The Marshall Space Flight Center, a world leader in developing space transportation and propulsion systems, engineers the future to accelerate exploration and scientific discovery.

9. The Stennis Space Center, which is responsible for rocket propulsion testing and for partnering with industry to develop and implement remote sensing technology.

NASA's stunning achievements over the last 50 years have been won for all mankind at great cost and sacrifice. In the quest to explore the universe, many NASA employees have lost their lives, including the crews of *Apollo 6*, the space shuttle *Challenger*, and the space shuttle *Columbia*.

Mr. Speaker, in the centuries to come, when space travel will be commonplace and America will have successfully led the way for humanity to colonize and utilize the resources of other planets, these first 50 years of NASA's existence will be remembered as the most significant era of human space exploration. It is, therefore, important that we commemorate the great achievements of NASA's first 50 years. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this historic legislation.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bipartisan concurrent resolution.

Human existence has marched through a great many generations, yet only in this last half century have humans taken to space.

We have been transformed by the space program. We live our lives differently, with long-range weather forecasts and GPS positioning and international cell phone calls and international banking.

We think of ourselves differently. Our space exploration has uncovered information about the universe that surrounds us. We now can conjecture about the first seconds of the life of the universe. We have learned much about where we are, and about what is happening around us, and about existence itself.

We think of our own planet differently. The sight of this fragile, blue ball, seen from a distance in dark space, stirred us, and provided impetus for the fledgling environmental movement. We realized that we had to sustain "Spaceship Earth."

As the chairman of the Science and Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, I observe the unique role that NASA plays in our technology capabilities.

The aerospace industry is one of America's biggest successes, and one of the strongest contributors to our trade balance. It owes much to NASA's fundamental aeronautics research.

Harder to quantify, but just as important, NASA's incredible achievements in space inspire young people to choose careers in technology fields. NASA recognizes this and has developed fine educational initiatives.

We have many competing societal priorities that must be addressed, but it is vital that we invest in the future, too. Throughout human history, the winner has been the nation that was more technically powerful. Investing in science and technology, with the space program and STEM education, is an investment for a richer and wider future.

If we aren't willing to make the investments to lead technologically, we know that others will take that lead. That isn't the future that I would like to see. Do we want a world in which our smart people are drawn to the work done in other countries, leaving us on the periphery?

There are widespread reports that China and India are building significant R&D capacity by investing in research at universities, and are elevating their industrial policies towards higher end work.

We have been warned. The National Academies' "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" laid it out. The investments that earlier generations made brought us our prosperous and secure lifestyle. Now it is time for us to renew these investments.

I am pleased with the American COMPETES Act that Congress and the White House enacted. It boosts STEM education to prepare the next generation for the technological challenges of the future and it strengthens our country's research and innovation environment to keep America competitive in the global economy.

Today when we look back over the 50 years of the space age, we feel proud. And I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution. It tells a success story. Now it is our job to write another success story, by continuing to invest in the fundamentals of a strong technology sector: STEM education, space exploration, and technology research.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, 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. LAMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 225.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AERONAUTICS RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS EMBODIED IN "THE BREAKING OF THE SOUND BARRIER"

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 736) honoring the 60th anniversary of the aeronautics research accomplishments embodied in "the breaking of the sound barrier".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 736

Whereas the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), and its successor agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), developed and sustained the world's preeminent aeronautics research program after NACA's formation in 1915;

Whereas the speed of sound once presented a seemingly impenetrable and dangerous barrier to piloted flight;

Whereas NACA, the U.S. Air Force, and Bell Aircraft undertook a joint project to develop and test the X–1 aircraft and achieve piloted supersonic flight;

Whereas on the morning of October 14, 1947, an X–1 aircraft piloted by Captain Charles "Chuck" Yeager was dropped from a B–29 carrier aircraft and "broke the sound barrier" and achieved supersonic flight for the first time in history;

Whereas this flight provided proof of the feasibility of piloted supersonic flight, and delivered the data required to improve high speed performance and develop technologies for advanced supersonic aircraft; and

Whereas subsequent X-plane aeronautics research projects have built on the historic accomplishments of the X–1 aircraft and achieved advances in a wide range of aeronautics research areas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and honors the contributions of the scientists and engineers of NACA and its partners who pioneered the technologies to enable supersonic flight;

(2) recognizes and honors the bravery of Charles Yeager, and the bravery of the many other test pilots who, sometimes at the cost of their lives, enabled the aeronautics developments that made that first supersonic flight possible; and

(3) recognizes the importance of strong and robust aeronautics research activities to the well being of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members