

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to each of the crew members of the Artemis II Mission in recognition of their contributions in advancing the human exploration of space to new heights, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to each of the crew members of the Artemis II Mission in recognition of their contributions in advancing the human exploration of space to new heights, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Artemis II Congres-
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The crew members of the Artemis II Mis-
2 sion traveled approximately 252,756 miles, or
3 406,771 kilometers, from Earth, representing the
4 farthest that humans have ever traveled from Earth.

5 (2) The Artemis II Mission—

6 (A) was the first crewed mission to travel
7 beyond low Earth orbit and around the Moon
8 since the Apollo 17 Mission in December 1972;

9 (B) resulted in the first ever real-time,
10 high-definition lunar images taken from human-
11 worn digital devices, including of Earth, a solar
12 eclipse, and the lunar surface, which—

13 (i) were taken mid-mission;

14 (ii) were the first lunar images taken
15 by crew members in 53 years; and

16 (iii) included rare images of the
17 Moon's far side from close range;

18 (C) represented the first crewed launch of
19 the *Orion* spacecraft of the National Aero-
20 nautics and Space Administration (referred to
21 in this section as “NASA”) on the Space
22 Launch System, marking the inaugural piloted
23 flight of this next-generation deep-space system;

24 (D) marked the first ship-to-ship voice call
25 between a lunar mission and the International

1 Space Station, representing milestone inter-
2 orbital communication; and

3 (E) confirmed the viability of *Orion*'s life
4 support, navigation, propulsion, and reentry
5 systems, including through the use of
6 translunar injection burns, in deep-space condi-
7 tions, laying the groundwork for future lunar
8 landings and missions to Mars.

9 (3) Reid Wiseman—

10 (A) served as the commander of the
11 Artemis II Mission, which resumed human ex-
12 ploration around the Moon;

13 (B) is a naval aviator who has now spent
14 175 days in space—

15 (i) as part of the Artemis II Mission;

16 and

17 (ii) as a flight engineer aboard the
18 International Space Station for 165 days
19 in 2014, during which he—

20 (I) spent 13 hours completing 2
21 spacewalks; and

22 (II) helped conduct more than
23 300 scientific experiments;

24 (C) previously served as chief of NASA's
25 Astronaut Office; and

1 (D) is the most experienced astronaut to
2 command a crewed lunar mission.

3 (4) Victor Glover—

4 (A) served as the pilot for the Artemis II
5 Mission, which was his second time piloting a
6 new spacecraft on an operational mission after
7 having served, in 2018, as the pilot for the
8 SpaceX Crew-1 aboard the Dragon Resilience;

9 (B) is a naval aviator and test pilot who
10 has now spent 178 days in space across 2 mis-
11 sions;

12 (C) completed 4 spacewalks during his 168
13 days aboard the International Space Station;
14 and

15 (D) is the first person of color, and the
16 first Black astronaut, to travel beyond low
17 Earth orbit and around the Moon.

18 (5) Christina Koch—

19 (A) served as a mission specialist for the
20 Artemis II Mission;

21 (B) holds the record for the single longest
22 spaceflight by a woman at 328 days;

23 (C) participated in the first all-female
24 spacewalk while aboard the International Space
25 Station; and

1 (D) was the first woman to travel beyond
2 low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

3 (6) Jeremy Hansen, a mission specialist for the
4 Artemis II Mission, representing the Canadian
5 Space Agency, was the first Canadian, and the first
6 astronaut from outside the United States, to travel
7 beyond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

8 (7) As the first human mission around the
9 Moon in this millennium, the Artemis II Mission was
10 notable for many other firsts, including the fol-
11 lowing:

12 (A) Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, the
13 launch director of the Artemis II Mission, was
14 the first woman to serve as a NASA launch di-
15 rector and the first female launch director for
16 a crewed mission beyond low Earth orbit and
17 around the Moon.

18 (B) Andre Douglas, a NASA astronaut,
19 and Jenni Gibbons, a Canadian Space Agency
20 astronaut, were the first individuals to serve as
21 backup crew members for an Artemis mission
22 beyond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

23 (C) Jacki Mahaffey was the first female
24 chief training officer for a crewed mission be-
25 yond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

1 (D) Amy Dill, a flight controller for the
2 Artemis II Mission, served as the first female
3 capsule communicator for a crewed mission be-
4 yond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

5 (E) Lili Villarreal served as the first fe-
6 male landing and recovery director for a crewed
7 mission beyond low Earth orbit and around the
8 Moon.

9 (F) Kelsey Young, Angela Garcia, and
10 Trevor Graff were the first science officers to
11 serve at NASA’s Mission Control Center in
12 Houston.

13 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.**

14 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
15 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
16 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
17 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
18 medal of appropriate design to each of the crew members
19 of the Artemis II Mission, in recognition of their contribu-
20 tions in advancing the human exploration of space to new
21 heights.

22 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the presen-
24 tation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of
25 the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-

1 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
2 to this Act.

3 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
4 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
5 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
6 Enterprise Fund.