

2019-K160

Assembly Resolution No. 160

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COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Project, the spaceflight that landed the first two people on the Moon on July 20, 1969

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate significant events which represent turning points in our unique history and commend those outstanding organizations and individuals whose lifelong dedication to space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research results in groundbreaking discoveries which improve the lives of the citizens of New York State, as well as those of the entire Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Project, the spaceflight that landed the first two people on the Moon on July 20, 1969; and

WHEREAS, On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite into space, triggering the Space Race; President Dwight D. Eisenhower responded by creating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and initiating Project Mercury, which aimed to launch a man into Earth orbit; and

WHEREAS, However, on April 12, 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space, and the first to orbit the Earth; less than a month later, on May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard became the first American in space, completing a 15-minute suborbital journey; and

WHEREAS, After these great feats, President John F. Kennedy declared, "this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth"; and

WHEREAS, After 10 Apollo missions, including Apollo 8 which was the first to be tested in the lunar orbit, Apollo 11 was ready to land on the moon; on the morning of July 16, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins sat atop another Saturn V at Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center; the three-stage 363-foot rocket used 7.5 million pounds of thrust to propel them into space and into history; and

WHEREAS, At 9:32 a.m. EDT, the engines fired and Apollo 11 cleared the tower; about 12 minutes later, the crew was in Earth orbit; after one and a half orbits, Apollo 11 gets a "go" for what mission controllers call "Translunar Injection," in other words, it's time to head for the moon; and

WHEREAS, Three days later, the crew is in lunar orbit, and a day after that, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin climbed into the lunar module Eagle and began the descent, while Michael Collins orbited in the command module Columbia; and

WHEREAS, When it came time to set Eagle down in the Sea of Tranquility, Neil Armstrong improvised, manually piloting the ship past an area littered with boulders; during the final seconds of descent, the

computer was sounding alarms; fortunately, the computer was just trying to do too many things at once; and

WHEREAS, When the lunar module landed at 4:18 p.m. EDT, only 30 seconds of fuel remained; Neil Armstrong radioed, "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed"; Mission Control erupted in celebration as the tension broke, and a controller told the crew "You got a bunch of guys about to turn blue, we're breathing again."; and

WHEREAS, At 10:56 p.m. EDT, Neil Armstrong was ready to plant the first human foot on another world; with an estimated 600 million people watching on television, he climbed down the ladder and famously proclaimed: "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."; and

WHEREAS, Buzz Aldrin joined him shortly, and offered a simple but powerful description of the lunar surface: "magnificent desolation."; the two men explored the surface for two and a half hours, collecting samples and taking photographs; and

WHEREAS, The astronauts left behind an American flag, pictures of human beings, recordings of a variety of languages, a patch honoring the fallen Apollo 1 crew, and a plaque on one of Eagle's legs which read, "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon. July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind."; and

WHEREAS, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin blasted off and docked with Michael Collins in Columbia; the crew splashed down off Hawaii on July 24, 1969; President John F. Kennedy's challenge was met, men from Earth have walked on the moon and returned safely home; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is proud to recognize this milestone

anniversary and has commemorated and contributed to this historic event in many ways; on August 13, 1969, in celebration of the moon landing on July 20, 1969, a tickertape parade was held in New York City for Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Michael Collins; at the time, many claimed it was the largest ticker tape parade New York had ever seen; although impossible to verify, it was said to have approximately 4 million people in attendance; the astronauts were first handed the key to the city, and then paraded up Broadway from Bowling Green Park to Herald Square; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the new documentary "Apollo 11", which debuted at Sundance, was partially produced at a shop in New York City; the post production shop with which Miller works in New York, Final Frame, rigged up custom hardware and software just for the Apollo 11 project in order to scan the Todd-AO footage to digital; and the West Point Mint, located in West Point, New York, will be producing the \$5 coin commemorating the moon landing; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the 115th Explorers Club Annual Dinner will be held on Friday, March 15, 2019, in Time Square, New York City, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11, paying just tribute to all living Apollo Moonwalkers, Astronauts, and Engineers; and

WHEREAS, The three-man crew traveled 240,000 miles from the Earth to the moon in 76 hours using computers that had less processing power than a cell phone; at the time, the Apollo Space Program cost \$25.4 billion, around \$150 billion in today's money; and

WHEREAS, Organizations and individuals which have given so selflessly of their skills and dedication in performing vital research to bring us closer to better understanding and protecting our world and universe, are worthy and due the highest commendation for their contributions to all of humanity; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when events of such historic significance are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Project, the spaceflight that landed the first two people on the Moon on July 20, 1969.