

2021-J494

Senate Resolution No. 494

BY: Senator AKSHAR

CONGRATULATING NASA Astronaut Doug Hurley upon the occasion of piloting the new SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station on May 27, 2020

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate NASA Astronaut Doug Hurley upon the occasion of piloting the new SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station on Wednesday, May 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Born October 21, 1966, in Endicott, New York, Doug Hurley is an American engineer, former United States Marine Corps pilot and current NASA astronaut; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Doug Hurley piloted space shuttle missions STS-127 in July of 2009, and STS-135 in July of 2011, the final flight of the space shuttle program; and

WHEREAS, Astronaut Doug Hurley launched into space for the third time as commander of Crew Dragon Demo-2, the first crewed spaceflight from American soil since STS-135 and became one of the first two astronauts, together with Bob Behnken, launching aboard a commercial orbital spacecraft in spaceflight history; he was also the first Marine to fly the F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet; and

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, May 27, 2020, Astronaut Doug Hurley entered the brand-new SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft and launched into orbit aboard a Falcon 9 rocket on a journey to the International Space Station (ISS); and

WHEREAS, This final test flight of the Crew Dragon capsule marked the first time that American astronauts will launch from American soil since the shuttering of the Space Shuttle program in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the test flight marked a new era in American spaceflight, validating SpaceX's crew transport capabilities and providing the opportunity for the United States to launch its own astronauts for the first time in nearly a decade; and

WHEREAS, Astronaut Doug Hurley has a unique perspective on the development of American spaceflight technology, as he piloted space shuttle missions including the final flight of the program in 2011; in the intervening years, spacecraft and their attendant technology have developed considerably, in terms of size, efficiency, and safety; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the test flight of the Crew Dragon was automated, with Doug Hurley and a fellow astronaut on hand to take over manual control of the spacecraft only if necessary; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Astronaut Doug Hurley, the

test flight is also significant as a model for the role that private companies like SpaceX play in future NASA operations; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to reflect upon those outstanding individuals who have made everlasting contributions on behalf of their fellow man and have truly left their mark on this great Empire State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate NASA Astronaut Doug Hurley upon the occasion of piloting the new SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station on May 27, 2020; and

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to NASA Astronaut Doug Hurley.