



House Celebrates the 40th Anniversary of a 'Giant Leap for Mankind'

The Apollo 11 moon landing was a goal President John F. Kennedy set forth in a speech to Congress on May 25, 1961, during a time when it looked as though the Soviet Union had an insurmountable lead in the "Space Race." On July 20, 2009, the House passed H.Res. 607, *Celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing*, by a vote of 390 to 0.



Chairman Bart Gordon presenting Apollo 11 astronauts, from L to R, Michael Collins, Neil Armstrong, and Buzz Aldrin, with a copy of H.Res. 607. (Photo Credit: NASA/Carla Cioffi)

The House of Representatives, the House Committee on Science and Technology, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) also held a tribute to the NASA astronauts. Members recognized the efforts of the Apollo 11 astronauts and the tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and other dedicated individuals and organizations that lead to the first moon landing and other achievements.

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Subcommittee Supports Enhancing the Relevance of Space

On July 16, the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee discussed ways to better communicate the relevance of space to the public.

Beyond the value of the knowledge gained, technologies and services developed for NASA and the nation's space program have been commercialized and are widely-used, for example, communications satellites, space-based weather monitoring and prediction, precision navigation, and medical diagnostic tools. NASA highlights many of the technologies, products and services in its annual NASA Spinoffs publications. NASA also created a website, NASA City, that allows users to trace the impact of space on their daily lives.



Subcommittee Chairwoman Gabrielle Giffords discussing the importance of our space programs with Ms. Debbie Adler Myers, a witness.

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E-NEWS

Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the July edition of the House Committee on Science and Technology's E-Newsletter.

The Committee appreciates your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also sign up to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon,
Chairman,
U.S. House Committee

Additional July Events:

July 8 — *Reauthorization of the FIRE Grant Program*

July 9 — *Technology Research and Development Efforts Related to the Energy and Water Linkage*

July 14 — *New Roadmaps for Wind and Solar Research and Development*

July 15 — *Technology and Innovation Subcommittee Markup: H.R. 2569*

July 16 — *Providing Aviation Weather Services to the Federal Aviation Administration*

July 21 — *Energy and Environment Subcommittee Markup: H.R. 3246, H.R. 3165, and H.R. 3029, H.R. 3247*

July 29 — *Full Committee Markup: H.R. 3246, H.R. 3165, H.R. 3029, and H.R. 3247*

July 30 — *A Systems Approach to Improving K-12 STEM Education*

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Subcommittee Investigates Ways to Increase Participation of Women and Girls in STEM Education

On July 21, the Research and Science Education Subcommittee examined ways to break down current barriers and improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education participation among women and girls.

Subcommittee Members reviewed current research findings, best practices, and the role

of federal agencies in attracting and maintaining women's and girl's interests in STEM education in primary and secondary school. Witnesses also testified about the common barriers that cause women to not pursue advanced degrees in STEM education and/or careers in STEM fields.



Subcommittee Chairman Daniel Lipinski asking Ms. Cheryl Thomas about how she got interested in engineering and decided to pursue a career in the field.

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Subcommittee Discusses the Transition to A Smart Grid

On July 23, the Energy and Environment Subcommittee reviewed the progress our nation is making towards transforming our electricity delivery system to a smart grid.

The smart grid is a two-way communication system for managing our electric infrastructure that offers utilities and consumers more information regarding electricity supply, consumption, and price.



Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird listening to witnesses testify on the efficiency and reliability of a smart grid at the hearing on July 23, 2009.

“A smart grid will operate more efficiently and reliably and empower consumers to more actively engage in energy usage decisions,” said **Subcommittee Chairman Baird**. “The technology to encourage their participation in these decisions will be at their fingertips.”

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PAGE 2

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House Passes S&T Legislation

On July 8, the House approved H.R. 2965, *Small Business Research and Innovation Act of 2009*.

On July 20, the House passed H. Res. 607, *Celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing*.

On July 21, the House approved H.R. 2729, a bill to authorize the designation of National Environmental Research Parks by the Secretary of Energy, and for other purposes, and H.R. 1622, a bill to provide for a program of research, development, and demonstration on natural gas vehicles.

Committee Passes S&T Legislation

On July 29, the Full Committee approved four energy bills — H.R. 3246, *Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009*, H.R. 3165, *Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009*; H.R.3029, bill to establish a research, development, and technology demonstration program to improve the efficiency of gas turbines used in combined cycle power generation systems; and H.R. 3247, a bill to establish a social and behavioral sciences research program at the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

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