

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 703

To establish the 50th Anniversary Apollo I Memorial.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. POSEY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BEYER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. PERLMUTTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the 50th Anniversary Apollo I Memorial.

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 “Apollo I Memorial
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On January 27, 1967, NASA Astronauts
2 Command Pilot Virgil I. “Gus” Grissom, Senior
3 Pilot Edward H. White II, and Pilot Roger B.
4 Chaffee were killed in an electrical fire that broke
5 out inside the Apollo I Command Module on Launch
6 Pad 34 at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Ca-
7 naveral, Florida.

8 (2) Command Pilot Virgil Grissom was selected
9 by NASA in 1959 as one of the original seven Mer-
10 cury astronauts. He piloted the Liberty Bell 7 space-
11 craft on July 21, 1963, on the second and final Mer-
12 cury suborbital test flight, served as command pilot
13 on the first manned Gemini flight on March 23,
14 1965, and was named as Command Pilot of the first
15 Apollo flight. He began his career in the United
16 States Army Air Corps and was a Lieutenant Colo-
17 nel in the United States Air Force at the time of the
18 accident, and he is buried at Arlington National
19 Cemetery.

20 (3) Senior Pilot Edward H. White II was se-
21 lected by NASA as a member of the second astro-
22 naut team in 1962. He piloted the Gemini-4 mission,
23 a 4-day mission that took place in June 1965, dur-
24 ing which he conducted the first extravehicular activ-
25 ity in the United States human spaceflight program.

1 He was named as Command Module Pilot for the
2 first Apollo flight. He began his career as a cadet
3 in United States Military Academy at West Point
4 and was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States
5 Air Force at the time of the accident.

6 (4) Pilot Roger B. Chaffee was selected by
7 NASA as part of the third group of astronauts in
8 1963. He was named as the Lunar Module Pilot for
9 the first Apollo flight. He began his career as a
10 ROTC cadet before commissioning as an ensign in
11 the United States Navy, he was a Lieutenant Com-
12 mander in the United States Navy at the time of the
13 accident, and he is buried at Arlington National
14 Cemetery.

15 (5) All 3 astronauts were posthumously award-
16 ed the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.

17 (6) As Arlington National Cemetery is where
18 we recognize heroes who have passed in the service
19 of our Nation, it is fitting on the 50th anniversary
20 of the Apollo I accident that we acknowledge those
21 astronauts by building a memorial in their honor.

1 **SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL TO THE CREW OF**
2 **THE APOLLO I LAUNCH TEST ACCIDENT AT**
3 **ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.**

4 (a) CONSTRUCTION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of
5 the Army shall, in consultation with the Administrator of
6 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, con-
7 struct at an appropriate place in Arlington National Cem-
8 etery, Virginia, a memorial marker honoring the three
9 members of the crew of the Apollo I crew who died during
10 a launch rehearsal test on January 27, 1967, in Cape Ca-
11 naveral, Florida.

12 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Of the amount appro-
13 priated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2017
14 for operations and maintenance for the Army, \$500,000
15 shall be available for the construction of the memorial
16 marker required by subsection (a).

17 **SEC. 4. DONATIONS FOR A MEMORIAL FOR THE CREW OF**
18 **THE APOLLO I LAUNCH TEST ACCIDENT.**

19 (a) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS.—The Ad-
20 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
21 istration may accept gifts and donations of services,
22 money, and property (including personal, tangible, or in-
23 tangible property) for the memorial marker required by
24 section 3.

25 (b) TRANSFER.—(1) The Administrator may transfer
26 to the Secretary of the Army any services, money, or prop-

1 erty accepted by the Administrator under subsection (a)
2 for the purpose of the construction of the memorial mark-
3 er required by section 3.

4 (2) Any moneys transferred to the Secretary under
5 paragraph (1) shall be merged with amounts in the ac-
6 count referred to in subsection (b) of section 3, and shall
7 be available for the purpose referred to in that subsection.

8 (c) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of
9 the Administrator to accept gifts and donations under
10 subsection (a) shall expire 5 years after the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act.

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