

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

Unofficial Copy
F5

2003 Regular Session
3lr2378

By: **Delegates Howard, Benson, Brown, D. Davis, Frush, Fulton, Haynes,
Holmes, Hubbard, Kelley, Menes, Moe, Murray, Niemann, Patterson,
Ross, V. Turner, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Creation of the Columbia Memorial Space and Flight Center**

3 FOR the purpose of stating that there is a need for a Columbia Memorial Space and
4 Flight Center to be established in Prince George's County, in Maryland in
5 conjunction with the Goddard Space Flight Center and Andrews Air Force Base;
6 and urging the Maryland Congressional Delegation to seek federal support for
7 the establishment of the Columbia Memorial Space and Flight Center and the
8 cooperation of the Goddard Space Flight Center and Andrews Air Force Base.

9 WHEREAS, Maryland has two major space and flight facilities that are of great
10 importance to the economy and security of the nation, to the advancement of
11 knowledge, and to the quality of life and well-being of the American people; and

12 WHEREAS, These two facilities are the Goddard Space Flight Center and
13 Andrews Air Force Base, home of Air Force One; and

14 WHEREAS, The time is right for Maryland to more fully utilize these assets to
15 educate and inspire our youth, their teachers, and their parents, and to attract
16 visitors and realize the economic benefits from these assets; and

17 WHEREAS, Other states have developed space centers and space camps in
18 conjunction with NASA facilities in their states, and have demonstrated the great
19 interest the American people have in visiting and learning more about our space
20 programs, their history, and their potential; and

21 WHEREAS, Maryland has one of the oldest NASA facilities in the nation, and
22 Goddard has developed such outstanding technological advances as the implantable
23 cardioverter defibrillator, Earth Alert, Weather Anywhere, and the LIDAR
24 topographical mapping system; and

25 WHEREAS, Other flight museums have obtained decommissioned Air Force
26 One airplanes and other high-profile airplanes to create air museums and other
27 tourist attractions, but Maryland is the home of Air Force One; and

1 WHEREAS, Maryland is home of the College Park airport, which is the oldest
2 continuously active airport in the world, site of the first military flight training
3 conducted by one of the Wright brothers, and the home of many other historic planes
4 that are on display at nearby Smithsonian locations, making Maryland a premier
5 center for flight history, education, and tourism; and

6 WHEREAS, Andrews Air Force Base is also the airport used by the President of
7 the United States and other high-ranking United States officials and visiting
8 dignitaries from all over the world as they travel in and out of Washington D.C.; and

9 WHEREAS, Most residents of Maryland have never visited either the Goddard
10 Space Flight Center or Andrews Air Force Base, and most visitors to the Nation's
11 Capital do not include these Maryland attractions in their itinerary; and

12 WHEREAS, In recognition of the tragic loss of Columbia, the first shuttle to fly
13 in space, and the seven courageous astronauts aboard, who gave their lives in the
14 pursuit of knowledge and in the service of their country, it is appropriate and timely
15 that the name of the flight museum be the Columbia Memorial Space and Flight
16 Center; and

17 WHEREAS, With the creation of the Columbia Memorial Space and Flight
18 Center, highly visible and easily accessible from the Capital Beltway, tourists from all
19 over the country could be attracted to Maryland to visit the Columbia Memorial Space
20 and Flight Center, and students from throughout the State could take advantage of
21 the unique educational opportunities that a space camp serving in conjunction with
22 Goddard Space Flight Center and Andrews Air Force Base would provide; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That there is
25 the need for a Columbia Memorial Space and Flight Center to be established in
26 Maryland in conjunction with the Goddard Space Flight Center and Andrews Air
27 Force Base; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Maryland Congressional Delegation is urged to seek
29 federal support for the establishment of a Columbia Memorial Space and Flight
30 Center, including funding for the planning, design, and development of the Center,
31 and the cooperation of the Goddard Space Flight Center and Andrews Air Force Base;
32 and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
34 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
35 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
36 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
38 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.
39 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
40 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, Benjamin L.
41 Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.

1 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington,
2 D.C. 20515; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
4 Legislative Services to Mr. Ralph Gipson, Executive Director, U.S. Space Camp
5 Foundation, 1 Tranquility Base, Huntsville, Alabama 35807; A.V. Diaz, Director,
6 NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland 20771; and Brigadier
7 General James A. Hawkins, Base Commander, Andrews Air Force Base, AAFB,
8 Maryland 20762-7001.