
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8025

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Senator Prentice; by request of Governor Gregoire

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE
5 NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA):

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space
10 Shuttle orbiters have played a tremendous role in U.S. human space
11 flight for more than 25 years, launching into orbit like rockets and
12 returning to Earth like gliders; and

13 WHEREAS, After the Shuttle orbiters' planned retirement in late
14 2010, following safely and successfully completing their missions,
15 attention will be given to the preservation of the Space Shuttle
16 program's history and artifacts for public display to inspire and
17 educate people about the achievements of the Space Shuttle program and
18 the rich history of space flight; and

19 WHEREAS, The State of Washington is known worldwide as a state rich
20 with its pioneering role and leadership in the commercial aerospace

1 industry led by Bill Boeing and is known today as a global leader in
2 aerospace and home to about 100,000 skilled workers and more than 600
3 companies specializing or supporting the aerospace industry; and

4 WHEREAS, The Boeing Company teamed with Lockheed to form the United
5 Space Alliance, which operates both the Space Shuttle and the
6 International Space Station; and

7 WHEREAS, The Boeing Company has a long legacy in the advancement of
8 space flight, and the Washington aerospace industry stands ready to
9 work with the Museum of Flight to support the exhibit of the Space
10 Shuttle in Seattle; and

11 WHEREAS, Seattle, Washington, an international seaport, attracts
12 visitors from around the world, and is home to the Museum of Flight;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Museum of Flight is an internationally acclaimed space
15 and air museum and is the largest nongovernmental, nonprofit air and
16 space museum in the nation, accredited by the American Association of
17 Museums and selected as a Smithsonian Affiliate in 2007, having the
18 largest science, technology, engineering, and math oriented educational
19 program of any air and space museum in the nation, serving more than
20 120,000 students from kindergarten through high school annually in a
21 five state region; and

22 WHEREAS, The Museum of Flight responded positively to the request
23 for information to acquire a Space Shuttle upon its retirement from
24 government service demonstrating its commitment to a development plan
25 including a new Space Gallery indoor exhibit area capable of preserving
26 a Space Shuttle orbiter and other artifacts, adjacent to Boeing Field's
27 10,000-foot runway, which is capable of receiving delivery of the Space
28 Shuttle; and

29 WHEREAS, The Museum of Flight's Board of Trustees, President and
30 CEO, and staff of 200, including educators, exhibit team, restoration
31 center staff, volunteers, and a professional curator remain committed
32 to acquisition, preservation, and exhibit of historically significant
33 air and space artifacts to provide a foundation for scholarly research
34 and lifelong learning programs, inspiring an interest in and
35 understanding of science, technology, engineering, math, and the
36 humanities; and

37 WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Museum of Flight is committed

1 to building a world class gallery to house and exhibit the Space
2 Shuttle; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Bonnie Dunbar, Museum of Flight President and CEO is
4 a former Rockwell engineer who helped design and build the Space
5 Shuttle Columbia's Ceramic Thermal Protection System, and then flew
6 five Space Shuttle flights as a Mission Specialist Astronaut in all
7 vehicles, except Discovery, is also a recipient of a 2007 Washington
8 State Medal of Merit; and

9 WHEREAS, The preservation of the Shuttle orbiter is an opportunity
10 of historic significance and a chance to recognize the achievements of
11 all NASA astronauts, including 19 who were either born in Washington or
12 have close ties to our state, and their colleagues who lost their lives
13 in space, including Washingtonians Commander Dick Scobee and Lt. Col.
14 Michael P. Anderson;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
16 National Aeronautics and Space Administration transfer one of the
17 remaining Space Shuttle orbiters, Atlantis or Endeavour, to the Museum
18 of Flight, Seattle, Washington, upon its retirement.

19 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
20 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
21 States, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space
22 Administration, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
23 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
24 State of Washington.

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