



SR1280

LRB103 43090 ECR 76347 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Captain James A. Lovell, a resident of Lake Forest, is the oldest living former astronaut of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Captain Lovell was born in Cleveland, Ohio on March 25, 1928; he attended the University of Wisconsin and received a Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1952; he graduated from Test Pilot School at the Naval Air Training Command in 1958, Aviation Safety School at the University of Southern California in 1961, and the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School in 1971; he has received honorary doctorates from a number of institutions of higher learning, including Rockhurst College, Illinois Wesleyan University, Western Michigan University, Mary Hardin-Baylor College, and the Milwaukee School of Engineering; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

WHEREAS, During his naval career, Captain Lovell had numerous aviator assignments, including a four-year tour as a test pilot at the Naval Air Test Center; while there, he served as program manager for the F4H Phantom Fighter; he also served as safety engineer with Fighter Squadron 101 at the Naval Air Station; he has logged more than 7,000 hours of flying time and more than 3,500 hours in jet aircraft; and

18

19

20

21

22

23

1           WHEREAS, Captain Lovell was selected to be an astronaut  
2           for NASA in September 1962; he served as a backup pilot for the  
3           Gemini 4 flight, as a backup commander for the Gemini 9 flight,  
4           and as a backup commander to Neil Armstrong for the Apollo 11  
5           lunar landing mission; and

6           WHEREAS, On December 4, 1965, Captain Lovell and Frank  
7           Borman were launched into space on the history-making Gemini 7  
8           mission, where the first rendezvous of two manned maneuverable  
9           spacecraft occurred; along with pilot Edwin Aldrin, he flew  
10          the Gemini 12 mission from November 11 through November 14,  
11          1966; and

12          WHEREAS, Captain Lovell served as command module pilot and  
13          navigator on the six-day journey of Apollo 8 from December 21  
14          to December 27, 1968; he and his fellow crewmen, Frank Borman  
15          and William A. Anders, became the first humans to leave the  
16          Earth's gravitational influence and orbit the moon, and this  
17          mission marked the first time humans were able to see and  
18          photograph the far side of the moon, leading to the capture of  
19          the famous Earthrise photograph; and

20          WHEREAS, Captain Lovell completed his fourth mission as  
21          spacecraft commander of the Apollo 13 flight from April 11 to  
22          April 17, 1970, becoming the first man to journey twice to the

1 moon; despite a catastrophic malfunction on the Apollo 13, he  
2 and his crew were able to return to Earth safely; and

3 WHEREAS, Captain Lovell retired from the Navy and from the  
4 Space Program to the join Bay-Houston Towing Company in  
5 Houston, Texas on March 1, 1973; he was promoted to the  
6 position of president and chief executive officer at the  
7 company on March 1, 1975; he became president of Fisk  
8 Telephone Systems, Inc. in Houston, Texas on January 1, 1977;  
9 he was appointed group vice president of Business  
10 Communications Systems at the Centel Corporation on January 1,  
11 1981; he retired from Centel as executive vice president and  
12 as a member of the board of directors on January 1, 1991; and

13 WHEREAS, Captain Lovell served as a trustee of the  
14 National Space Institute, as a fellow of the Society of  
15 Experimental Test Pilots and the American Astronautical  
16 Society, as a member of the Explorers Club, on the board of  
17 directors of the Federal Signal Corporation, the Astronautics  
18 Corporation of America, and the Astronaut Memorial Foundation,  
19 on the Sports Medicine Advisory Board at Rush Presbyterian at  
20 St. Luke's Medical Center, on the board of trustees of Lake  
21 Forest College, as a trustee of the National Space Institute  
22 and the Association of Space Explorers, and as the chairman of  
23 the National Eagle Scouts Association; he served as director  
24 of the Federal Signal Corporation and the Chicago Astronautics

1 Corporation of America; he is a regent emeritus for the  
2 Milwaukee School of Engineering; and

3 WHEREAS, Captain Lovell received the Harmon International  
4 Trophy in 1966, 1967, and 1969, the FAI De Laval and Gold Space  
5 Medals in 1967, the Robert J. Collier Trophy in 1968, the  
6 Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy in 1969, the H. H. Arnold  
7 Trophy in 1969, the General Thomas D. White USAF Space Trophy  
8 in 1969, the City of New York Gold Medal in 1969, the City of  
9 Houston Medal of Valor in 1969, the National Academy of  
10 Television Arts and Sciences Special Trustees Award in 1969,  
11 the Institute of Navigation Award in 1969, the AIAA Haley  
12 Astronautics Award in 1970, the University of Wisconsin's  
13 Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1970, the Presidential  
14 Medal of Freedom in 1970, the Sam Houston Area Council  
15 Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in 1976, the Lincoln  
16 Leadership Prize in 2010, the Order of Lincoln Award in 2012,  
17 the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, two Navy Distinguished  
18 Flying Crosses, the American Academy of Achievement Golden  
19 Plate Award, and the Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service  
20 Award; he was also the co-recipient of the American  
21 Astronautical Society Flight Achievement Award in 1966 and  
22 1968; and

23 WHEREAS, Despite his myriad of achievements, Captain  
24 Lovell believes his family to be his greatest accomplishment;

1 he married Marilyn Lillie Gerlach at St. Anne's Church in  
2 Annapolis, Maryland on June 6, 1952, and she passed away on  
3 August 27, 2023; the two had begun dating while they were in  
4 high school, and as a college student, Marilyn transferred  
5 from Wisconsin State Teachers College to George Washington  
6 University in Washington, D.C., so she could be near Jim while  
7 he was at Annapolis; together, they welcomed four children,  
8 Barbara, James, Susan, and Jeffrey; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare December  
11 21, 2024 as Captain James A. Lovell Day in the State of  
12 Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to Captain Lovell as a symbol of our esteem and  
15 respect.