

ERNIE FLETCHER

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

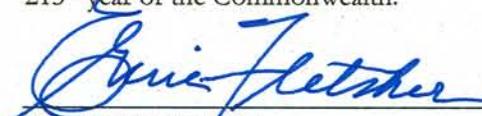
- WHEREAS, The United States has a proud heritage of leadership in exploration and scientific discovery – a heritage that has enhanced our national experience by providing vision, hope, and economic stimulus, from the days of Lewis and Clark to the Apollo Program; and;
- WHEREAS, Space exploration is a quest for knowledge about what lies outside the confines of the Earth's atmosphere and about the Earth itself, and the knowledge gained adds greatly to the accumulated wisdom of humankind and results in technological advances that improve our lives in countless ways; and
- WHEREAS, Space exploration, particularly as carried out under the auspices of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has resulted in the invention of new technologies, the creation of new jobs across the entire economic spectrum, the development of new commercial products and markets, and the establishment of a legacy for future generations; and
- WHEREAS, NASA has enhanced both our national security and quality of life through the development of new space technologies and their commercial spin-offs, among them MRI and CAT scan technology that evolved from NASA imaging programs; improved cellular communications that came with the use of NASA satellites; fetal heart monitors that evolved from technology used to measure airflow over the Shuttle's wings; and programmable heart pacemakers that developed from satellite technology; and
- WHEREAS, NASA has long inspired the next generation of explorers and scientists through a variety of initiatives, encouraging them to pursue professional careers critical to our nation's future excellence through such renowned programs as the NASA Explorer Schools, Educator Resource Center, and Challenger Center; and
- WHEREAS, NASA positively impacts our economy by distributing millions of dollars in NASA grants and contracts to our institutions of higher education, and by working with universities and companies across the Commonwealth to accomplish many of the Agency goals; and
- WHEREAS, The Vision for Space Exploration sets NASA on a journey of discovery, seeking answers to questions we have asked for generations. It embraces the excellence of the past and at the same time, sets a course of accomplishment for the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ERNIE FLETCHER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby pay tribute to:

THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
AND
THE VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION

and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing the positive social and economic impact that space exploration has on our Nation and this great Commonwealth.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort this 5th day of April in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Four and in the 213th year of the Commonwealth.


ERNIE FLETCHER
GOVERNOR

