

By: Representatives Hobgood-Wilkes, Ladner,
Owen

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE STENNIS SPACE
2 CENTER SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM ON THE OCCASION OF STENNIS SPACE
3 CENTER CAPITOL DAY ON FEBRUARY 29, 2024.

4 WHEREAS, the Stennis Space Center Capitol Day event in honor
5 of the Stennis Space Center's Senior Leadership Team is on
6 February 29, 2024; and

7 WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
8 (NASA), America's civil space program and the global leader in
9 space exploration, has 20 centers and facilities across the
10 country, including its leading facility at the Stennis Space
11 Center in Hancock County, Mississippi; and

12 WHEREAS, NASA studies Earth, including its climate, the sun,
13 and the solar system and beyond, and they also conduct research,
14 testing and development to advance aeronautics, including electric
15 propulsion and supersonic flight; and

16 WHEREAS, additionally, NASA develops and funds space
17 technologies that will enable future exploration and benefit life
18 on Earth and leads a Moon to Mars exploration approach, which



19 includes working with United States industries, international
20 partners and academia to develop new technology, and send science
21 research, and soon, humans, to explore the Moon on Artemis,
22 missions that will help prepare for human exploration of the Red
23 Planet; and

24 WHEREAS, Mark T. Vande Hei, NASA Astronaut and Retired U.S.
25 Army Colonel, was selected by NASA in 2009, and was born in
26 Virginia then raised in New Jersey and Minnesota; and

27 WHEREAS, he earned a bachelor of science degree in physics
28 from Saint John's University and a master of science in applied
29 physics from Stanford University, and he was commissioned in the
30 United States Army through the ROTC program and served as a combat
31 engineer; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1999, NASA astronaut Mark Vande Hei became an
33 assistant professor of physics at the United States Military
34 Academy in West Point, and after extending the record for the
35 longest single spaceflight in history by an American to 355 days,
36 he returned to Earth in March 2022; and

37 WHEREAS, John Bailey, Jr., serves as Acting Center Director
38 of NASA's Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, a
39 position he has held since January 2024, and in that role, he
40 provides executive leadership, overall direction and management of
41 the center; and

42 WHEREAS, additionally, Mr. Bailey is responsible for
43 implementing NASA's mission in rocket propulsion testing, and for



44 developing and maintaining NASA's world-class rocket propulsion
45 test facilities, and he also oversees a unique federal city that
46 is home to as many as 40 federal, state, academic and private
47 organizations, and numerous technology-based companies; and

48 WHEREAS, Kenneth Newton has served as the Acting Executive
49 Director of the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC) in Hancock
50 County, Mississippi, since October 1, 2023, and he is responsible
51 for all personnel, project management, contractor operations,
52 service delivery, budget and the customer experience, and he
53 serves as the Director of Service Delivery at the NASA Shared
54 Services Center (NSSC); and

55 WHEREAS, Rodney McKellip serves as Associate Director of the
56 NASA John C. Stennis Space Center, and with the Director, he
57 provides leadership and coordinates NASA's rocket propulsion
58 testing capabilities and SSC's roles in the agency's technology
59 programs; and

60 WHEREAS, Mr. McKellip also manages a skilled workforce of
61 more than 1,200 civil servant and contractor employees and the
62 site's hosting of more than 40 other federal, state, academic and
63 private technology organizations that employ an additional 4,000
64 employees; and

65 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
66 recognize the remarkable NASA Stennis Space Center Senior
67 Leadership Team and the tremendous contributions of the center to
68 the economy of the State of Mississippi:



69 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
70 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
71 recognize and honor the Stennis Space Center Senior Leadership
72 Team on the occasion of Stennis Space Center Capitol Day on
73 February 29, 2024, and extend our best wishes to the Center's
74 Leadership Team and employees on this auspicious occasion.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
76 furnished to each member of the Stennis Space Center Senior
77 Leadership Team and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

