

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATOR OWEN

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Wednesday, May 8, 2024, as Louisiana Legislature Space Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Marshall Space Flight Center and Michoud Assembly Facility are leading the nation's development of the Space Launch System's (SLS's) contribution to the Artemis launches, allowing America's leadership in space to continue beyond low-Earth orbit, to enable human exploration of the lunar vicinity, and to lead future missions to deep space with an eye toward Mars; and

WHEREAS, the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans has played an instrumental role in the success of the United States Space Program during the previous six decades; manufacturing in Louisiana the Saturn rockets for the Apollo program and the external tanks for the Space Shuttle program from the 1970s until the program was retired in 2011; and

WHEREAS, NASA and the state of Louisiana share a commitment to promote the growth of a well-trained aerospace workforce and sustain the world class manufacturing capabilities at the Michoud Assembly Facility, where NASA is building the SLS and Orion Multipurpose Crew Vehicle that has ushered in a new era of exploration and discovery, and taking mankind further than it has been before; and

WHEREAS, in a continuation of its work on the International Space Station, Chandra X-ray Observatory, James Webb Space Telescope, Near Earth Asteroid Scout Mission, Nuclear Thermal Propulsion, and the Imaging X-Ray Polarity Explorer Mission, the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, is developing robust science missions to expand understanding of our planet, solar system, and universe; and

WHEREAS, NASA spinoffs have benefitted Louisiana by decontaminating polluted soil and groundwater; providing forecasting models for storm surge predictions, weather models, and fishing hotspots; enabling the remote transfer of high-speed digital data; and lowering costs and reducing manufacturing time for the prosthetics industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Wednesday, May 8, 2024, as Louisiana Legislature Space Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Marshall Director Joseph Pelfrey and Michoud Director Hansel Gill in recognition of the distinguished engineers, technicians, management, and support personnel working at the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE