

**House Resolution**

**No. 37**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member O'Donnell  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bloom, Burke, Frazier, Gray,  
Irwin, Lackey, Low, Mathis, and Wilk)**

February 12, 2016

---

House Resolution No. 37—Relative to California Aerospace Days.

1     WHEREAS, The California aerospace industry is a powerful,  
2     reliable source of employment, innovation, and export income,  
3     directly employing more than 203,000 people in California and  
4     supporting more than 511,000 jobs in related fields resulting in  
5     \$2.9 billion in annual state income tax revenues; and  
6     WHEREAS, The California aerospace industry leads the United  
7     States in aerospace and defense services, including the design and  
8     manufacture of aircraft, spacecraft, and commercial satellites, as  
9     well as a myriad of systems and instruments for search, detection,  
10    navigation, guidance, and radio and television broadcast and  
11    wireless communication systems; and  
12    WHEREAS, California is home to many superb sites of air and  
13    space activity, including Vandenberg Air Force Base, two Federal  
14    Aviation Administration-licensed launch sites, the Mojave Air and  
15    Spaceport, more than 20 astronomical observatories, multiple  
16    international airports, many important defense aerospace bases,  
17    and hundreds of business and general aviation airfields; and  
18    WHEREAS, California is also home to three National  
19    Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) research and  
20    engineering centers, the Ames Research Center, the NASA Neil  
21    A. Armstrong Flight Research Center, formerly known as the

1 Dryden Flight Research Center, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
2 (JPL); and

3 WHEREAS, California has led the nation in aeronautical firsts  
4 and California's aerospace industry produced many of the  
5 significant and record-breaking aircraft that are now represented  
6 in the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.  
7 The Spirit of St. Louis, which in 1927 performed the first solo  
8 nonstop transatlantic flight from New York to Paris, France, was  
9 designed and built in California by Ryan Airlines and made Charles  
10 Lindbergh an international hero. The Douglas DC-3, recognized  
11 as the most successful airliner in history, dominating both  
12 commercial and military air transportation from its introduction  
13 in 1935 until after World War II, was designed and built in  
14 California by the Douglas Aircraft Company. The Space Shuttle  
15 was designed, built, assembled, and tested in California. California  
16 is home to Edwards Air Force Base, the site of five test flights of  
17 the Shuttle Enterprise, the landing site of 54 Space Shuttle  
18 missions, and the site of the 199 X-15 missions; and

19 WHEREAS, Edwards Air Force Base, known for its notable  
20 aeronautical achievements, was the location of many first flights  
21 of American aircraft, shuttles, and experimental jets flown from  
22 Rogers Dry Lake in the Mojave Desert of Kern County. America's  
23 first jet, XP-59A, was first flown in California. General Charles  
24 "Chuck" Yeager made world history in California on October 14,  
25 1947, when he became the first man to fly Mach 1, faster than the  
26 speed of sound, while piloting the Bell X-1 rocket plane. The rocket  
27 powered X-15, flown by former State Senator William J. "Pete"  
28 Knight, attained a speed of Mach 6.7 (4,520 miles per hour), a  
29 speed that remains, to this day, the highest ever attained in a  
30 manned aircraft. The Rutan Model 76 Voyager was the first aircraft  
31 to fly around the world without stopping or refueling; and

32 WHEREAS, California has led the nation in firsts in human  
33 space exploration, including the manufacture of the Apollo 11  
34 command module that carried the first humans to the surface of  
35 our moon; the manufacture and landing of the Space Shuttle  
36 orbiters, the first reusable space vehicles, which include the  
37 Endeavour, on display at the California Science Center; and the  
38 manufacture and recovery of the SpaceX Dragon capsule and  
39 Falcon launch vehicle, the first privately funded space exploration  
40 system. The Space X Dragon cargo spacecraft has made 6

1 successful commercial cargo resupply flights to the International  
2 Space Station; and

3 WHEREAS, California has led the nation in firsts in robotic  
4 space exploration, including the Explorer 1 Earth observation  
5 satellite as America's first successful spacecraft, the Mariner 2 as  
6 the first spacecraft to explore another planet, the Viking landers  
7 as the first spacecrafts to perform experiments on another planet,  
8 and the development of the Pioneer 10 spacecraft as the first to  
9 exit our solar system; and

10 WHEREAS, Californians, through NASA and JPL, build,  
11 manage, and operate the majority of the spacecraft exploring our  
12 solar system, including the most recent Mars Science Laboratory  
13 "Curiosity," and those spacecraft exploring other solar systems,  
14 like the Kepler exoplanet discovery mission, as well as the SOFIA,  
15 the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, that  
16 administers the Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors program for  
17 educators who have inspired the dreams of California youth; and

18 WHEREAS, Sally Kristen Ride, Ph.D., who was born in  
19 California, stands in history as a pioneer in space exploration and  
20 academia and serves as a role model for others, by virtue of having  
21 been the first American woman and the youngest person to go into  
22 space when she traveled aboard the Challenger spacecraft on June  
23 18, 1983; and

24 WHEREAS, California aerospace industries assemble the  
25 legendary Boeing C-17 Globemaster III, build the impressive  
26 Northrop Grumman Global Hawk Unmanned Aircraft Systems,  
27 engineer radical new aircraft at the famous Lockheed Martin  
28 "Skunk Works" Advanced Development Programs facility, and  
29 create systems that assist and protect members of the Armed Forces  
30 of the United States through military communications, situational  
31 awareness, satellite-guided ordnance, and technologies yet to be  
32 dreamed of; and

33 WHEREAS, Los Angeles Air Force Base, home of the Space  
34 and Missile Systems Center (SMC) since 1962, carries out vitally  
35 important work, including managing research, development, and  
36 acquisition of aerospace technology for military space systems,  
37 and continues to be an irreplaceable economic hub and center of  
38 military space acquisition excellence for the nation; and

39 WHEREAS, California is home to the burgeoning private space  
40 industry with SpaceX and Virgin Galactic having administrative

1 and manufacturing facilities located in the state and producing the  
2 future spacecrafts that will launch the next generation of military,  
3 governmental, scientific, and commercial satellites into space,  
4 resupply the International Space Station, and provide private  
5 citizens the opportunity to travel into space; and

6 WHEREAS, California will continue to lead in aerospace  
7 education, through its superb science, technology, engineering,  
8 and mathematics (STEM) education programs and at its world-class  
9 research universities, and thus will continue to lead the world with  
10 the innovation that enabled advanced meteorological forecasting,  
11 the Global Positioning System, NextGen tools for air traffic  
12 management, green aviation, sophisticated wind tunnels and test  
13 facilities, and advanced supercomputing and robotics; and now,  
14 therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*  
16 Assembly recognizes the contributions of the aerospace industry  
17 to the communities, citizens, history, economy, security, and  
18 educational system of California by proclaiming the days of  
19 February 29, 2016, and March 1, 2016, as California Aerospace  
20 Days; and be it further

21 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*  
22 *of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*