



July 24, 2009

Marion C. Blakey
President and Chief Executive Officer

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing and reflect on the grand history of the United States in air and space, the contributions of the American aerospace industry to our history, economy, security and educational system should be formally recognized. We request you support the intent of H. CON. RES. 167, currently introduced in the House, by issuing a Presidential Proclamation for the observance of National Aerospace Day, on September 16, 2009.

The mastery of flight and the exploration of space are uniquely tied to the American experience. Not only have Americans broken records and boundaries, but our leadership in aerospace has inspired many to dream and lifted our nation to greatness.

Americans were the first to pioneer powered flight in 1903 and continued to break aviation records and other boundaries throughout the twentieth century. Our nation's space program has landed Americans on the moon, deployed systems that continue to teach us about the universe and our own Earth, and is completing the International Space Station. These accomplishments have been made possible by the skilled visionaries and engineers who have come to be our nation's aerospace industry.

Aerospace is one great interrelated enterprise with many faces, touching our lives across a broad spectrum of areas. America's defense depends on our airpower, with aircraft of many types serving in all branches of the services. Our citizens regularly travel coast to coast by air, as does our mail and overnight packages. Our phone calls, TV and radio transmissions, financial transactions as simple as paying for gas, and warnings of severe weather, all travel with the aid of satellites. Our Global Positioning System provides critical information to our emergency responders, our aircraft, our military and even our own cars. These benefits to our society are all rooted in the efforts of our aerospace workforce.

We sincerely thank you in advance for any time and consideration you may be able to give our request.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marion Blakey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Marion C. Blakey

MCB:jps

Enclosure