

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9417

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to each of the crew of the Artemis II, in recognition of advancing human exploration of space to new heights.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2026

Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, and Mr. IVEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to each of the crew of the Artemis II, in recognition of advancing human exploration of space to new heights.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Artemis II Congres-  
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Artemis II crew set a new record dis-  
9 tance for human spaceflight at ~252,756 miles

1 (406,771 km) from Earth, setting the record for  
2 longest human distance from Earth.

3 (2) The Artemis II was the first crewed mission  
4 to travel beyond low Earth orbit and around the  
5 Moon in 53 years, since the Apollo 17 Mission in  
6 December 1972.

7 (3) The Artemis II mission took the first real-  
8 time, high-definition lunar imagery from human-  
9 worn digital devices ever taken mid-mission, includ-  
10 ing of Earth, a solar eclipse, and the lunar surface.

11 (4) The Artemis II mission took the first  
12 crewed lunar imagery in 53 years, including rare im-  
13 ages of the Moon's far side from close range.

14 (5) Reid Wiseman was the first commander of  
15 an Artemis mission. He restored human exploration  
16 around the Moon. He is a naval aviator who has now  
17 spent 175 days in space between Artemis II and as  
18 a flight engineer aboard the International Space  
19 Station for 165 days in 2014, during which time he  
20 completed two spacewalks during 13 hours and  
21 helped conduct more than 300 scientific experi-  
22 ments. He also served as Chief of NASA's Astronaut  
23 Office. He is the most experienced astronaut to com-  
24 mand a crewed lunar mission.

1           (6) Victor Glover was the pilot of the Artemis  
2           II. This was his second time piloting a new space-  
3           craft on an operational mission following his role in  
4           2018 as pilot for SpaceX Crew-1 aboard the Dragon  
5           Resilience. He is also a naval aviator and test pilot  
6           who has now spent 178 days in space during his two  
7           missions. He has completed four spacewalks during  
8           his 168 days aboard the International Space Station.  
9           He is also the first person of color and first Black  
10          astronaut to travel beyond low Earth orbit and  
11          around the Moon.

12          (7) Christina Koch was the mission specialist of  
13          the Artemis II. She holds the record for the single  
14          longest spaceflight by a woman (328 days) and par-  
15          ticipated in the first all-female spacewalk while  
16          aboard the International Space Station. She was the  
17          first woman to travel beyond low Earth orbit and  
18          around the Moon.

19          (8) Jeremy Hansen was the mission specialist  
20          of the Artemis II. He represented the Canadian  
21          Space Agency and was the first Canadian and non-  
22          U.S. astronaut to travel beyond low Earth orbit and  
23          around the Moon.

24          (9) Charlie Blackwell-Thompson was the launch  
25          director of the Artemis II Mission. She is the first

1 woman to serve as a NASA launch director and was  
2 the first female launch director for a crewed mission  
3 beyond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

4 (10) Artemis II was the first crewed launch of  
5 NASA's Orion spacecraft on the Space Launch Sys-  
6 tem (SLS), marking the inaugural piloted flight of  
7 this deep-space system.

8 (11) Artemis II was the first ship-to-ship voice  
9 call between a lunar mission and the International  
10 Space Station (ISS), marking milestone inter-orbital  
11 communication.

12 (12) Artemis II was the first mission to confirm  
13 Orion's life support, navigation, propulsion (includ-  
14 ing translunar injection burns), and reentry systems  
15 in deep-space conditions.

16 (13) Artemis II laid the groundwork for future  
17 lunar landings and missions to Mars, in partnership  
18 with United States industry.

19 (14) As the first human mission to the Moon in  
20 this millennium, the mission also included many  
21 other notable firsts, including the following:

22 (A) Jacki Mahaffey served as the first fe-  
23 male chief training officer for a crewed mission  
24 beyond low Earth orbit and to the Moon, and  
25 one of the female capsule communicators, a

1 first for a crewed mission beyond low Earth  
2 orbit and to the Moon.

3 (B) Andre Douglas, a NASA astronaut,  
4 and Jenni Gibbons, a Canadian Space Agency  
5 astronaut, were the first individuals to serve as  
6 backup crew members for an Artemis mission  
7 beyond low Earth orbit and around the Moon.

8 (C) Amy Dill served as the flight controller  
9 and one of the female capsule communicators,  
10 a first for a mission beyond low Earth orbit and  
11 to the Moon.

12 (D) Lili Villarreal served as the first fe-  
13 male landing and recovery director for a crewed  
14 mission beyond low Earth orbit and to the  
15 Moon.

16 (E) Kelsey Young, Angela Garcia, and  
17 Trevor Graff, served as the first science officers  
18 in Mission Control Center Houston.

19 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.**

20 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
21 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
22 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
23 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
24 medal of appropriate design to each of the crew of the

1 Artemis II, in recognition of advancing human exploration  
2 of space to new heights.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
4 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
5 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-  
6 retary”) shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems,  
7 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-  
8 retary. Each gold medal shall depict the crew of four as-  
9 tronauts.

10 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

11 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
12 bronze of the gold medals struck pursuant to section 3  
13 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
14 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
15 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

16 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

17 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
18 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
19 51 of title 31, United States Code.

20 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
21 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals  
22 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
23 items.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
2 **SALE.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is  
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
5 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-  
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant  
7 to this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under this Act  
10 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public En-  
11 terprise Fund.

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