

Representative Tom Patton Sponsor Testimony – H.C.R. No. 8

Ohio House Aviation and Aerospace Committee

June 27th, 2023

Chairman Holmes, Vice Chair Willis, Ranking Member Baker, and the members of the Ohio House Aviation and Aerospace Committee, thank you for the opportunity and honor to provide sponsor testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 8. Representative Lampton, the co-sponsor of this resolution, and myself are asking on behalf of the great state of Ohio and its wonderful citizens to urge the Federal Government to officially name Wright Patterson Air Force Base, in Dayton, Ohio the permanent location for the U.S. Space Command headquarters.

As we all know, Ohio's aviation and aerospace history is extremely rich. Ohio is proud to be known as the "birthplace of aviation" considering that Ohio-born, Wilbur and Orville Wright invented and flew the world's very first powered airplane in 1903. Not only are we the birthplace and state of aviation, but we are the home of aerospace pioneers. Ohio has been the home for 26 astronauts, who in total, have logged more than 22,000 hours in space. Some of these astronauts include: Neil Armstrong, the first man to step foot on the moon, John Glenn, the first man to orbit the Earth, and Judith Resnik, who participated in the first voyage of the Space Shuttle Discovery, and the second American woman in space. Resnik was aboard the Challenger when the orbiter exploded only moments after its takeoff. I'm proud to say that the District I represent, District 17 houses the NASA Glenn Research Center in Brook Park, OH, where NASA and the U.S. Government work to research and develop new technology and further our progress in space exploration.

The Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the premier air base in the United States. Wright-Patt is one of the largest and most impressive Air Force bases in the country, with over 30,000 individuals employed on base, including military members, government workers, and civilian employees. Ohio continues to lead the nation in aviation and aerospace innovation and would be a great home to the Space Command Headquarters.

Chairman Holmes and the Members of the House Aviation and Aerospace Committee, I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 8. At this time I would be happy to answer any questions.

