

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center**  
2101 NASA Parkway  
Houston, TX 77058-3696



November 9, 2021

Reply to Attn of: AD-21-002

Representative Lisa Sobecki  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43266

Dear Representative Sobecki,

We were so pleased to hear the State of Ohio is taking the time to honor NASA hero and native son of Ohio, Gene Kranz, with a statutory holiday.

At NASA's Johnson Space Center, where he worked for a large part of his 37 years of Federal service, Gene Kranz is recognized as an inspiration, and a symbol of how great leaders at NASA can solve seemingly insurmountable challenges with a dedicated team. Because of Gene, we at NASA know that "failure is not an option" means more than success at all costs. It means taking input from your talented team of innovators and finding the solutions necessary to achieve mission success.

Gene was an Assistant Flight Director for Project Mercury and a Flight Director for all Project Gemini missions in which we expanded the missions from the first U.S. astronaut in space to crews of two astronauts per mission. Gene served as Flight Director for Apollo 11, humanity's first landing on the Moon. Gene is renowned for his leadership of the Apollo 13 "Tiger Team" which faced multiple potentially catastrophic issues but found a way to safely return all three crew members back home.

Despite being known for his Apollo work, Gene also contributed to NASA's first Space Station known as Skylab and later served as Director of Mission Operations where he oversaw the design, development, and ultimately operation of early Space Shuttle missions. During his distinguished NASA career, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Richard Nixon for the Apollo 13 Mission, and was designated a Distinguished Member of the Senior Executive Service by President Ronald Reagan.

Gene also left a significant legacy at NASA that allowed the Space Shuttle Program to build the International Space Station, a 900,000 pound orbiting laboratory that is the size of a six bedroom house, which has been continuously occupied by U.S. astronauts for over 20 years. NASA stands on the shoulders of giants like Gene Kranz as we work to return to the Moon with our Artemis Program; to land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon in the coming years. The Artemis

missions will allow us to establish a long-term, sustainable presence on the Moon to better prepare our Nation for future missions to Mars.

As NASA continues to chart a course through the cosmos, Gene's significant leadership and his historic accomplishments remain forever in our hearts and minds. Knowing that if we want to inspire the next generation the way Gene inspired us, "failure is not an option."

Thank you for honoring Ohio native and American hero Gene Kranz, from all of us at the NASA Johnson Space Center and the NASA Glenn Research Center.

Sincerely,

**VANESSA WYCHE**

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Vanessa E. Wyche  
Director  
NASA Johnson Space Center

Concurrence or Approval:

**MARLA PEREZ-  
DAVIS**

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PEREZ-DAVIS  
Date: 2021.11.09 22:55:39 -05'00'

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Marla E. Perez-Davis, PhD.  
Director  
NASA Glenn Research Center

Third Concurrence or Approval:

**THEODORE RO**

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Theodore U. Ro  
Chief Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel  
NASA Johnson Space Center

Fourth Concurrence or Approval:

**EMILY NELSON**

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NELSON  
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Holly E. Ridings  
Chief Flight Director Office  
NASA Johnson Space Center

cc:

