

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY MASCHER, FOEGE, JACOBY, and LENSING

A Resolution to recognize and honor Professor James Van Allen for his lifetime of service and achievement.

WHEREAS, Professor James Van Allen is Iowa's native son whose life and work have literally stretched from the fields of Iowa up to the stars as a path-breaking astrophysicist, best known for his work in magnetospheric physics; and

WHEREAS, Professor Van Allen graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1935 and then enrolled at the University of Iowa where he received a Master of Science degree in 1936 and a Doctorate of Philosophy in 1939; and

WHEREAS, Professor Van Allen began his storied career with the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the Applied Physics Laboratory at the Johns Hopkins University, and the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, in 1950 Professor Van Allen returned to the University of Iowa, serving as the head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy beginning in 1951 and dedicating his professional life to high-altitude research; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Professor Van Allen and several other American scientists developed proposals for the launch of a scientific satellite as part of the research program conducted during the International Geophysical Year of 1957-1958; and

WHEREAS, Professor Van Allen's Explorer spacecraft

HR 20

1 was launched in 1958 and returned enormously important
2 scientific data about the radiation belts circling the
3 earth; and

4 WHEREAS, Professor Van Allen participated in
5 scientific projects in space throughout his career,
6 with involvement in the first four Explorer probes,
7 the first Pioneer projects, several Mariner efforts,
8 and the orbiting geophysical observatory; and

9 WHEREAS, Professor Van Allen retired from the
10 University of Iowa in 1985 to become Carver Professor
11 of Physics, Emeritus; NOW THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
13 That the House of Representatives honors Professor
14 James Van Allen for his lifetime of truly
15 extraordinary achievements and thanks him for his
16 contributions to the world and to the students and the
17 institutions of the University of Iowa; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to Professor Van Allen as a
20 tribute to his lifetime of achievements.

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30