

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 486

By Sexton

A RESOLUTION to honor Elon Musk and SpaceX for their historic rescue mission of two American astronauts who were stranded on the International Space Station.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize a brilliant businessman who is saving lives and helping to restore America as a valuable ally of President Donald J. Trump; and

WHEREAS, after nearly 300 days in orbit, Captain Barry "Butch" Wilmore and Captain Sunita "Suni" Williams, who flew on Boeing's Starliner for its first crewed mission, returned to Earth on March 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Captain Wilmore and Captain Williams arrived at the International Space Station (ISS) in June 2024 for a scheduled eight-day stay as part of the Starliner's test flight; however, technical issues prevented them from returning home on the spaceship; and

WHEREAS, Captain Wilmore and Captain Williams were stranded on the ISS for more than nine months, awaiting transport back home; and

WHEREAS, in January 2025, President Trump asked Elon Musk to facilitate the return of the two astronauts as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, springing into action, Mr. Musk launched the SpaceX Dragon to rescue Captain Wilmore and Captain Williams; and

WHEREAS, in the early morning of March 18, 2025, Captain Wilmore and Captain Williams boarded the SpaceX Dragon to return to Earth; after a seventeen-hour voyage, the Dragon made a water landing off the Florida coast that evening; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Musk's expeditious action in launching this rescue mission is indeed commendable and reflects his ongoing commitment to serving this nation and the American people through common-sense leadership; and

WHEREAS, Captain Wilmore publicly thanked Mr. Musk and President Trump for their facilitation of the rescue mission in an internet video that has now gone viral; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Musk has earned the undying gratitude of Americans from all walks of life, and he is worthy of our approbation on this historic occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Elon Musk and SpaceX for their historic rescue mission of two American astronauts who were stranded on the International Space Station and thank Mr. Musk for bringing Captain Wilmore and Captain Williams back home as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.