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## *House of Representatives*

Celebrating 70 Years of Flight Research at NASA Armstrong

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**HON. STEVE KNIGHT**  
OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*September 28, 2016*

**MR. KNIGHT.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, which was founded on September 30, 1946.

In 1946 a group of officials from NASA's predecessor organization, the NACA, set up an operations base for our nation's effort in the race to achieve supersonic manned flight. A year later, on October 14, 1947, Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first pilot to break the sound barrier in the experimental Bell X-1 aircraft. This achievement, one of many incredible "firsts" in our history, inaugurated a national legacy of excellence in aerospace that defines American power today.

More X-planes followed the X-1, each building on our understanding of flight and projecting U.S. power further into air and space. Twenty years after Yeager, my father, Pete Knight, flew the X-15 at Mach 6.7. Even today that flight holds the world record for aircraft speed. What we learned from the X-programs was critical to our journey to the moon and paved the way for the Space Shuttle.

Today NASA Armstrong continues to play an important role in the advancement of American aeronautics. It is pursuing a new generation of X-planes that will validate technology for faster, cleaner, quieter, and safer air travel over the next ten years. These bold programs are not only an exciting next step for our nation's legacy in aviation pioneering, but a necessary one, to renew our technological and competitive edge in aviation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

I congratulate the men and women of NASA Armstrong on their outstanding achievements over the past 70 years. Their unflinching pursuit of useful knowledge in atmospheric flight and airborne science is essential to the American scientific enterprise, as well as our engagement with international science community, the competitiveness of our private sector air and space companies, and our military's edge over potential adversaries. On behalf of the 25th Congressional District of California, I would again like to thank the NASA Armstrong team for all they do for our country.