

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

2 BY DVORSKY and BOLKCOM

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Professor Van Allen's Explorer spacecraft

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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 SENATE, That the Senate
13 honors Professor James Van Allen for his lifetime of
14 truly extraordinary achievements and thanks him for
15 his contributions to the world and to the students and
16 the institutions of the University of Iowa; and

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

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