



HR0498

LRB104 15747 ECR 28932 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Hailing from Savanna, Illinois, Major Cameron Jones of the United States Air Force submitted his name as one of over 8,000 applicants for the available slots opened by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 2025; and

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WHEREAS, From this significant pool of talented, forward-looking Americans, only ten men and women were selected; and

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WHEREAS, Major Jones was one of the ten people selected from this pool of over 8,000 applicants; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois-trained as well as native-born, Major Jones earned bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering from the Granger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC); and

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WHEREAS, As a member of the U.S. Air Force, Major Jones compiled more than 1,600 flight hours, including 150 hours classified as combat hours, in more than 30 types of aircraft headed by the F-22 Raptor, and he was promoted to the rank of Major; and

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1           WHEREAS, Major Jones was selected to attend the U.S. Air  
2 Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base (Edwards  
3 AFB) in California, and he experienced further training and  
4 leadership at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School at Nellis Air  
5 Force Base (Nellis AFB) in Nevada; and

6           WHEREAS, Major Jones' selection as one of the ten  
7 astronaut candidates of NASA's Class of September 2025 was  
8 announced on Monday, September 22 at the Johnson Space Center  
9 in Houston, Texas; and

10           WHEREAS, As a U.S. Air Force test pilot, Major Jones will  
11 follow a well-trodden path into the United States space  
12 program; legendary American astronauts, including John Glenn,  
13 Neil Armstrong, and Illinois' Jim Lovell, were U.S. Navy and  
14 U.S. Air Force test pilots before moving into America's final  
15 frontier; and

16           WHEREAS, As an astronaut candidate selected in NASA's  
17 Class of 2025, Major Jones will start what will be nearly two  
18 years of additional training before flight eligibility begins,  
19 with the astronaut candidates studying robotics, land and  
20 water survival, geology, space medicine, high-performance  
21 aircraft training, and simulated space-experience training;  
22 and

1           WHEREAS, Major Jones has become one of roughly 370 people  
2 who have been selected as NASA astronaut candidates over the  
3 life of the program, which officially began in October 1958;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Major Jones is the second NASA astronaut  
6 candidate to be chosen from Savanna, Illinois, with the first  
7 selectee being Dale Gardner, chosen in January 1978 and then  
8 named to serve on the Space Shuttle flights STS-8 in 1983 and  
9 STS-51-A in 1984; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we extend warm congratulations to Major Cameron Jones of the  
13 United States Air Force on his selection as a 2025 astronaut  
14 candidate by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space  
15 Administration (NASA); and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That we support Major Jones as he undergoes the  
17 further grueling training necessary as the future flight crews  
18 are selected by NASA for future American missions into space;  
19 and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That we look forward to seeing the name of  
21 Illinois' Major Jones on the news wires of the world as he  
22 flies above it; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 presented to Major Jones of the United States Air Force and  
3 NASA as a symbol of our esteem and respect.