

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

California Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0078

Dear Speaker Atkins:

We write as Members of the California Congressional delegation to express our support for placing a statue of California astronaut Sally Ride in the U.S. Capitol. We hope that the California legislature will pass the recently introduced joint resolution to replace the statue of Father Junípero Serra in Statuary Hall with one of Ride, the first American woman in space.

Passionate about science from a young age, Sally Ride earned three degrees in physics from Stanford University. When NASA advertised in the student newspaper for applicants to the space program, Ride answered the call, and eventually became one of just 35 men and women selected from over 8,000 applicants. In 1983, she became both the first woman and the youngest astronaut NASA has ever sent into space. Ride completed a second space flight in 1984, and logged a total of more than 343 hours in space over the course of her career.

Sally Ride's space flights were only the beginning of a distinguished career. Ride went on to serve on the committees that investigated the *Challenger* and *Columbia* shuttle disasters, and to found NASA's Office of Exploration. After leaving NASA, Ride taught as a professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego. With her partner Tam O'Shaughnessy, she co-founded Sally Ride Science, which develops educational programs to inspire middle and high school students, particularly girls, about science.

Sally Ride had a passion for science and space exploration that inspired generations of girls to pursue STEM. Ride was a true American hero who dedicated her life to scientific advancement and education. Placing her statue in the Capitol will be a fitting honor for this pioneering woman.

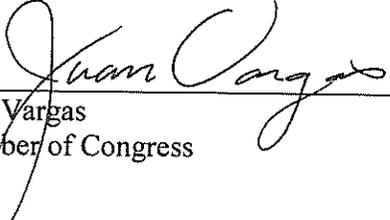
Sincerely,



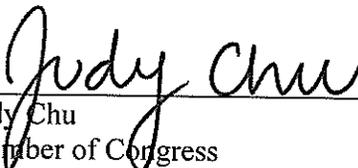
Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



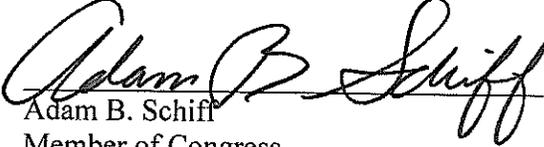
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress