



March 23, 2017

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy, we would like to pledge our support for Senate Resolution 27, a resolution honoring the life and achievements of Eugene A. “Gene” Cernan. This resolution honors the life of Gene Cernan who was a Navy aviator, fighter pilot, electrical engineer, and the last astronaut to walk on the Moon.

Gene Cernan was born on March 14, 1934 in Chicago, Illinois, was raised in the suburban towns of Bellwood and Maywood, and graduated from Proviso Township High School. Gene Cernan then began his career as a basic flight trainee in the United States Navy. He was one of fourteen astronauts selected by NASA in October 1963 to participate in the Gemini and Apollo programs. Gene went on to become the second American to have walked in space having spanned the circumference of the world twice in a little more than 2 ½ hours in 1966 and during the Gemini 9 mission.

Gene Cernan served as the lunar module pilot for Apollo 10 in 1969, which was referred to as the “dress rehearsal” for Apollo 11’s historic landing on the Moon. He was the commander of Apollo 17 in 1972, during the last human mission to the Moon. Gene maintains the distinction of being the last man to have left his footprints on the surface of the moon and was one of three men to have flown to the moon on two occasions.

Gene Cernan logged 566 hours and 15 minutes in space, of which more than 73 hours were spent on the surface of the Moon. Gene and the crew of Apollo 17 set records that still stand today, for longest manned lunar landing flight, longest lunar surface extra vehicular activities, largest lunar sample return, and longest time in lunar orbit. Gene Cernan retired from the Navy after 20 years and ended his NASA career in 1976. On January 16, 2017, Gene Cernan passed away in Houston, Texas, leaving behind a vibrant history of space exploration and advocacy for NASA, a legacy of inspiring young people to dream the impossible, and a documentary that encourages human space exploration.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military and Veteran community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 703-548-5800 or at [michael.little@ausn.org](mailto:michael.little@ausn.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Joseph Little". To the right of the signature, the text "ABH (Av/Sea)" and "USNR" is written in blue ink.

Michael J. Little

Director of Legislative Affairs