

Discussing the Future of NASA

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Congressman Rothman Meets with Most Recent Shuttle Astronauts, Including Jersey Native Commander Scott Kelly

(Washington, DC)—On Wednesday, October 3, 2007, astronauts from the August 8-21, 2007 space shuttle flight to the International Space Station (ISS) met with Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ). They discussed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) work to develop a new human space flight vehicle, called Orion, which is scheduled to launch its first mission in 2014, provided there is consistent funding. Orion is part of Project Constellation, a NASA program to create a new generation of spacecraft capable of performing a variety of missions, from Space Station re-supply to lunar landings.

Meeting with Rothman, a member of the House Science & Technology Committee, were U.S. Air Force Colonel Alvin Drew, a Mission Specialist from Washington, DC, Dr. Dave Williams, a Mission Specialist from Canada, and U.S. Navy Commander Scott J. Kelly, commanding officer of the recently returned seven-person space crew. Commander Kelly was born in Orange, New Jersey and grew up in West Orange. He made history when he and his brother Mark became the first twin astronauts to travel to outer space.

During the crew's recent mission, which was the 20th flight for the Endeavor shuttle, the astronauts successfully added a new gyroscope and external spare parts platform to the ISS, activated a new system that enables docked shuttles to draw electrical power from the station to extend visits to the outpost, and performed four spacewalks. They carried about 5,000 pounds of equipment and supplies to the station and returned to Earth with about 4,000 pounds of hardware and no longer needed equipment.

Pictured

Dr. Dave Williams, Colonel Alvin Drew, and Commander Scott Kelly present Congressman Rothman with a montage of photos from the recent mission, signed by the crew.

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