

Members' Statement – November 20, 2007
Contributions to NASA Space Program

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share a story of people and organizations whose limits are literally out of this world. I'll begin with a good friend, Scott Parazynski, who was an Olympic coach in the Calgary Games. He is an extremely knowledgeable medical doctor, and he is also NASA's most experienced spacewalker.

Last month my wife, Jennifer, and I were invited to take a special tour of the Kennedy Space Center and witness Scott's shuttle team blast off into outer space, an event we'll never forget. I'm pleased to report that two weeks later, after performing the most dangerous spacewalk ever in order to keep alive the hopes and dreams of those who are working on the International Space Station, Scott has returned safely to his family after his fifth and final mission.

When I reflect on the reception for family and friends on the night before the launch, I recall the most poignant statement from one of the astronauts who shared NASA's goal: to make life better for all people on Earth. Mr. Speaker, it would take the rest of this session to share even a partial list of the benefits that people around the world have gained from the space program, but it's worthy of note that many of the contributions originated right here with Albertans, including Dr. Bob Thirsk, who earned his BSc at the U of C, Professor Carlos Lange, Drs. Samson and Mann, senior scientist Ian Stirling, Shana Corporation, and in numbers too large to mention here, scores of Albertans involved with Canadarm and Canadarm2 projects.

These individuals, organizations, and events remind me of the incredible potential for good that human beings possess. I invite all members of the House to join me in saying thank you and congratulations to all associated with the space program for proving that, indeed, the sky is not the limit and for making our lives better every day in big and small ways.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.