**Committee: NASA: Apollo 13**

**Character: Glynn Lunney**

**Represented by: Sir Winston Churchill High School**

**Delegate: Laura Frankow**



To the Honorable Chair,

My name is Glynn Lunney, and I am a flight director for the approaching Apollo 13 mission. I feel my years of background in aerospace engineering will hopefully be of value during the mission, and I am greatly looking forward to the coming days in which this mission we have put so much effort in will finally become a reality.

I received my Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering in 1958 from the University of Detroit, where I had studied for four years. In 1959, I was placed on a board of members to found the Space Task Group, an organization tasked to create what would become NASA’s manned space program. I began my work in the aerospace industry with the Control Center Simulation Group. In this amazing position, I was able to train astronauts and other flight controllers in the hopes of preparing them for a manned spaceflight in the future, a task never before accomplished.

The first project I got to take part in was the Mercury project. My work on the Mercury project was in planning and creating procedures, determining trajectories, and taking part in the writing of the first set of mission rules: guidelines that astronauts and flight controllers must follow. I feel as if I did my absolute best to work to lay out the groundwork for a successful future in space exploration for the NASA organization. After Mercury, the program moved to Houston, Texas, where I became the head of the Mission Logic and Computer Hardware section in 1961. This was a huge responsibility as I was responsible for communicating with Mission Control about the computing and display requirements of any manned missions. Mercury was a learning process, with the need to constantly absorb new information, synthesize it, and make quick decisions. I worked on the design and the control of the trajectory of an Atlas in orbit and on its return. I also did work in the tracking station in Bermuda on the console.

I was offered, in 1964, a position as a flight director for the Gemini mission. I worked on Gemini 3, 9, 10, 11, and 12 as one of the head flight directors leading the missions, most of them after returning from work on the Apollo projects. At this point I was thoroughly involved in a lot of flight direction for these projects, a step up from Gemini 3 in which I was on the backup team. With this leap in responsibility came a need for me to step up to help solve major issues and make quick, logical decisions. Despite not being personally involved, I had every confidence in the Apollo 1 program, and its failure was not only devastating, but also eye-opening and spurred me and every member of the team that had worked on that project to put every ounce of caution, oversight, and ingenuity into the Apollo 7, a program in which I worked on as a flight director. Apollo 7 was the first manned flight of the Apollo series. Its success spurred us at NASA to work even harder on the following flights. The hard work of my colleagues culminated in the outstanding success of Apollo 11. And now, we look forward to more success in Apollo 13.

I have been an employee of NASA since its foundation- and I have thoroughly loved the exciting opportunities that such a job has offered me over the years. Now, in 1970, after more than a decade of work at NASA, I still have a great passion for being a part of amazing projects, such as Apollo. Currently I work as a flight director for the Apollo programs, and I have also worked on the Gemini programs in a similar position, along with dozens of my most esteemed colleagues. My hopes for Apollo 13 are very high- it is a project that all of us at NASA have great pride in, and another successful mission will only further the United States in its aims to explore more and more of outer space. However, the priority for the mission will always be the safe return of our astronauts, some of the most hardworking, intelligent, and inspiring people I know. Their safety is paramount, and that is what I, and everyone working with Apollo 13, will be thinking about for the entire duration of the mission. I have every confidence that our mission control team and the crew aboard the Apollo 13 have the skills and the abilities to safely maneuver this spacecraft to a successful moon landing. Spacecraft are incredibly complex systems, and there is always a possibility that something was overlooked. If this is the case, I have complete faith that we will be able to pull through and get our astronauts home safely as planned.

I am proud to work not only to further the United States’ progress into space exploration but also to inspire the world to new heights. I look forward to seeing the Apollo 13 mission completed successfully and safely.

Regards,

Glynn Lunney

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