

SUBMITTED PHOTO

**U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers speaks with Artemis II astronauts via live video from orbit around the Moon on April 9, 2026. Rogers, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, asked the crew how seeing Earth from deep space shaped their perspective on what America can accomplish in the space program.**

## ARTEMIS

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they named “Integrity”. Congressman Rogers crafted a unique question after receiving feedback on social media about what people in Southern and Eastern Kentucky want to know most about the Artemis mission.

“After emerging from the far side of the moon and seeing the entirety of the Earth through that

small window, how has it impacted your determination for what America can accomplish in the space race?” asked Congressman Rogers.

“It reminds you first, right now, we’re 106,000 miles away from planet Earth still, and we’ll be home tomorrow. Part of this is just scale. It is unbelievable to think that we could build an international team led by the United States of America and set our sights out

on a sustained presence on the moon and onto Mars, and then we could go and achieve it,” said Reid Wiseman, Artemis II Commander. “I know we did this in Apollo, and it was absolutely amazing, but I will tell you, having been there, the four of us, having been there just now, this is nothing short of a miracle. It is incredible that we can go out and do this, that we can play with gravity, that we can target around the

moon, that we can send four humans in a spaceship 250,000 miles from home and bring them back. There is nothing this nation cannot do when it has a vision. It just has the capability to go out and get anything done we want to get done.”

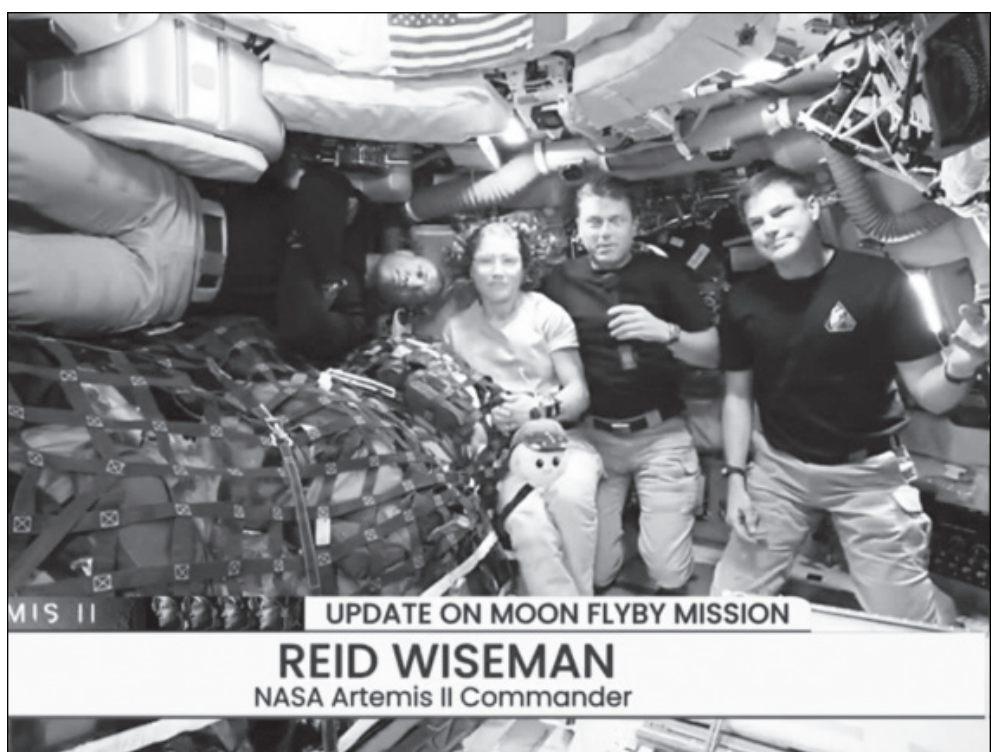
Congressman Rogers also told the astronauts that he was proud of them and proud of Morehead State University, where this historic mission is being tracked. MSU’s

tracking station is the only one in NASA’s Deep Space Network that is not owned by the federal agency.

“I’m incredibly proud of Morehead State’s Space Science program and the unique opportunities that they offer to our students in the mountains. Their satellite tracking stations have paved the way for a partnership with NASA that gives our students hands-on experience with the nation’s leading

aerospace engineers,” said Rogers. “Our region is a small part of the Artemis II Mission through MSU’s tracking station, reaching into deep space with NASA.”

The Artemis II Orion capsule is scheduled for splashdown in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego, California on Friday evening, just after 8:00 p.m./EDT. The USS John P. Murtha will be on standby to safely bring the Integrity crew to shore.



SCREEN CAPTURE

**The Artemis II “Integrity” crew aboard the Orion spacecraft during their historic mission around the Moon. The historic crew traveled farther from Earth than any humans in history and paving the way for future lunar and Mars exploration.**

## BEAR

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So placing it was left to Desi Fuentes and the workers of Fuentes Roofing, McAlpin said.

“He did a great job,” McAlpin said of Fuentes. “He had a big crew, and they’re wonderful.”

He added: “It’s really been an attraction while they’re roofing it,” he said.

The building has a history of having an ursine protector, as when it was being built in 2003, a different pink bear kept construction workers company.

In a November 24, 2003 article in the Commonwealth Journal, the building’s general contractor, Jimmy Moore, told Editor Emeritus Bill Mardis that he was originally looking for a “big, hairy gorilla” to put on the roof, but instead found a bear to do the job.

The first bear was actually white, Moore said, and painted it a fluorescent pink to help it stand out.

In the present, McAlpin said he thought pink had been chosen to celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is in October. Just as it was two decades ago, the more recent bear was framed up with wood to help it stay on the roof, McAlpin said.

The building, which is operated by McAlpin and his business partner Doug Hall, rents out spaces to



Bill Mardis Photo

**Bob McAlpin, partner in Eagle Creek Properties, shows off a Teddy bear that has become a conversation piece on the roof of the new business and office building on the northeast corner of Ky. 80 and U.S. 27. The Teddy bear is moved from place to place on the roof and has been “adopted” by passing motorists.**

**The original pink teddy bear, as seen in a Commonwealth Journal article printed on November 24, 2003.**

local businesses.

McAlpin said that when it built, the first occupant was the Subway restau-

rant that still operates there today.

McAlpin said, “Here’s another fun fact: Rhonda

Nelson – that’s Jimmy Nelson (wife) who started that Subway years ago – she and my wife were

talking about it, and she said, ‘You’re not going to believe it, but I’ve got the original teddy bear.’ She sent a picture the other day of the original teddy bear from 23 years ago.”

The new roof has had its cupola and accents done in silver this time around. The original was done in copper, and McAlpin said he’d had some people ask him why it wasn’t done in copper again.

“Then I’ve had people say, ‘I think the silver looks nice. You can’t suit everybody,’” he said.

What most can agree on, however, is that the roof is more complicated than most.

“Doggone, that was a job,” McAlpin said about the roofers work on it. “It was scary, seeing them hanging off that cupola. There were like eight guys on that thing, and they had to custom cut every piece. Plus, they’re putting a real cool top on it.”

That area, the corner lot overlooking one of the busiest intersections in the county, has a lot of history behind it, McAlpin said. Another feature of the property is a large monument depict-

ing the Ten Commandments.

McAlpin said he and Hall got the idea to place the monument after hearing that the one placed at the Pulaski County Courthouse, back in the early 2000s, had to be taken down due to a lawsuit brought against them and other Kentucky governments by the American Civil Liberties Union in 2005.

That case went on to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in 2011 upheld the verdict that governmental entities could not display religious symbols.

The courthouse’s display had to be taken down.

“So I talked to My business partner, Doug, and I said, ‘Let’s get Smith’s monuments to make us a big Ten Commandments ... and let’s put the Ten Commandments up at the 80-27 intersection,’” McAlpin said.

There it sits today, and in referencing the original tenant Subway and its outdoor eating area, McAlpin said, “People are welcome to come sit on that patio, read the Ten Commandments and eat them a sandwich.”

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The following notice is given to all interested parties that all voting machines including absentee machines to be used in the upcoming Primary Election to be held on the 19th of May 2026 will be inspected by the Pulaski County Board of Elections on the 14th day of April 2026 at 9:00 AM at the Hal Rogers Fire Training Center, 180 Oak Leaf Lane, Somerset KY in accordance with KRS 117.165.

### Candido's Towing & Repair

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**Lienholder: North Mill Credit Trust**

70 West Hubbard St Ste 200 Chicago IL 60654

**Owner: North Mill Credit Trust**

9 Executive Circle Ste 230

Irvine, CA 92614

## ATTENTION

Pulaski County Schools is now hiring bus drivers and we need your help. Full time drivers can receive medical, dental, supplemental insurance and retirement benefits. We will train you to get your CDL license and all the other training necessary to drive a school bus. We offer bonuses at the completion of each stage of training. We can start the training process immediately. If interested, apply online at Pulaski.net.

**Any questions, call 606-679-1123 and ask for Transportation.**