

It is such an honor to be here—a place of healing and hope, a place of genius and vision. Again, I want to thank you all very much for your hard and tireless work, on behalf of a grateful nation.

May God bless what you do, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. at the Natcher Building at the National Institutes of Health. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain

*February 3, 2003*

*President Bush.* Tonight I'll have a statement; His Majesty will have a statement; and then we'll ask you all to leave. We've got some business to do.

First, Your Majesty, welcome to the Oval Office. It is such an honor to have you here. America has got a great friend in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It's a place where we've had longstanding relations, a place where we've had mil-to-mil relations for, I think, nearly 50 years. And you have been a stalwart when it comes to peace, and we're so appreciative that you're here.

His Majesty hopes that we're able to—like me, hopes that we're able to resolve this issue peacefully in Iraq. But if Saddam Hussein does not disarm, for the sake of peace and security for not only the people in the region, for people here in America, we will go in and disarm him. And I have made that clear to His Majesty in prior conversations. He fully understands the position of the United States, and he has been incredibly supportive, for which I'm grateful.

Welcome.

*King Hamad.* Thank you, Mr. President. And I thank the President for his wonderful reception and the clear objectives for security and development, especially in our region.

And this is something we really need at this level of leadership. The decisionmaking process and the objectives are very clear concerning the well-being of the people of the region and of the world. And I thank him for receiving me today.

I came all the way from Bahrain to here, really to show this warm relationship and to support the President in what he's doing for our stability and purpose.

Thank you very much.

*President Bush.* Thanks very much. Thanks. I appreciate you coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at a Memorial Service for the STS-107 Crew of the Space Shuttle  
*Columbia* in Houston, Texas  
February 4, 2003

Their mission was almost complete, and we lost them so close to home. The men and women of the *Columbia* had journeyed more than 6 million miles and were minutes away from arrival and reunion.

The loss was sudden and terrible, and for their families, the grief is heavy. Our Nation shares in your sorrow and in your pride, and today we remember not only one moment of tragedy but seven lives of great purpose and achievement.

To leave behind Earth and air and gravity is an ancient dream of humanity. For these seven, it was a dream fulfilled. Each of these astronauts had the daring and discipline required of their calling. Each of them knew that great endeavors are inseparable from great risks, and each of them accepted those risks willingly, even joyfully, in the cause of discovery.

Rick Husband was a boy of 4 when he first thought of being an astronaut. As a man, and having become an astronaut, he found it was even more important to love his family and serve his Lord. One of Rick's favorite hymns was "How Great Thou Art," which offers these words of praise: "I see the stars. I hear the mighty thunder. Thy power throughout the universe displayed."

David Brown was first drawn to the stars as a little boy with a telescope in his backyard. He admired astronauts, but, as he said, "I thought they were movie stars. I thought I was kind of a normal kid." David grew up to be a physician, an aviator who could land on the deck of a carrier in the middle of the night, and a shuttle astronaut. His brother asked him several weeks ago what would happen if something went wrong on their mission. David replied, "This program will go on."

Michael Anderson always wanted to fly planes and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Air Force. Along the way,

he became a role model, especially for his two daughters and for the many children he spoke to in schools. He said to them, "Whatever you want to be in life, you're training for it now." He also told his minister, "If this thing doesn't come out right, don't worry about me. I'm just going on higher."

Laurel Salton Clark was a physician and a flight surgeon who loved adventure, loved her work, loved her husband and her son. A friend who heard Laurel speaking to Mission Control said, "There was a smile in her voice." Laurel conducted some of the experiments as *Columbia* orbited the Earth and described seeing new life emerge from a tiny cocoon. "Life," she said, "continues in a lot of places, and life is a magical thing."

None of our astronauts traveled a longer path to space than Kalpana Chawla. She left India as a student, but she would see the nation of her birth, all of it, from hundreds of miles above. When the sad news reached her hometown, an administrator at her high school recalled, "She always said she wanted to reach the stars. She went there, and beyond." Kalpana's native country mourns her today, and so does her adopted land.

Ilan Ramon also flew above his home, the land of Israel. He said, "The quiet that envelops space makes the beauty even more powerful, and I only hope that the quiet can one day spread to my country." Ilan was a patriot; the devoted son of a Holocaust survivor served his country in two wars. "Ilan," said his wife, Rona, "left us at his peak moment, in his favorite place, with people he loved."

The *Columbia's* pilot was Commander Willie McCool, whom friends knew as the most steady and dependable of men. In Lubbock today they're thinking back to the