

H. Res. 507

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

February 3, 2004.

Whereas February 1, 2004, marks the one year anniversary of the accident that claimed the Space Shuttle Columbia and the lives of seven heroic astronauts that made up its crew;

Whereas, while in orbit, Columbia's experienced crew conducted important microgravity research into the life sciences, physical sciences, and space and earth sciences, in addition to promoting education initiatives;

Whereas the Columbia experienced a structural failure that resulted in its destruction over the States of Texas and Louisiana as it approached to land on February 1, 2003;

Whereas the seven crew members of STS-107, Rick D. Husband (Commander), William C. McCool (Pilot), Michael P. Anderson (Payload Commander), Kalpana Chawla (Mission Specialist), David M. Brown (Mission Specialist), Laurel B. Clark (Mission Specialist), and Ilan Ramon (Payload Specialist) exhibited unparalleled bravery and commitment to the goal of exploring space and advancing mankind's search for knowledge in the cosmos;

Whereas Rick Husband, 45, was a Colonel in the United States Air Force, a test pilot, and a veteran of STS-96,

and held degrees from Texas Tech University and California State University, Fresno;

Whereas William C. McCool, 41, was a Commander in the United States Navy and test pilot, and held degrees from the United States Naval Academy and the University of Maryland;

Whereas Michael P. Anderson, 43, was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, a former pilot instructor and tactical officer, and a veteran of STS-89, and held degrees from the University of Washington and Creighton University;

Whereas Kalpana Chawla, 41, was an aerospace engineer, a Federal Aviation Administration Certified Flight Instructor, and a veteran of STS-87, and held degrees from Punjab Engineering College (India), the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Colorado, Boulder;

Whereas David M. Brown, 46, was a Captain in the United States Navy, a naval aviator, and a naval flight surgeon, and held degrees from the College of William and Mary and Eastern Virginia Medical School;

Whereas Laurel B. Clark, 41, was a Commander in the United States Navy and naval flight surgeon, and held degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison;

Whereas Ilan Ramon, 48, was a Colonel in the Israeli Air Force, a fighter pilot, and Israel's first astronaut;

Whereas these brave astronauts will never be forgotten by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration family and all those who believe in the importance of exploring our universe; and

Whereas when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Mars Exploration Rover (MER) Spirit landed on Mars on January 3, 2004, it brought with it a small commemorative plaque bearing the names of the seven astronauts, establishing an enduring memorial on another planet to the fallen crew of Space Shuttle Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives does offer its gratitude to the seven Space Shuttle Columbia astronauts and its heartfelt sympathy to their families on the anniversary of their loss, with the reassurance that this sacrifice will not have been made in vain, but will strengthen this Nation's resolve to continue their journey of discovery.

Attest:

Clerk.