

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2697

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the seven members of the crew of the space shuttle Columbia in recognition of their outstanding and enduring contributions to the Nation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2004

Mrs. HUTCHISON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the seven members of the crew of the space shuttle Columbia in recognition of their outstanding and enduring contributions to the Nation.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) On Saturday, February 1, 2003, the space
6 shuttle Columbia exploded upon re-entering the at-
7 mosphere following a 16-day mission.

1 (2) Before the Columbia started its tragic de-
2 scent, the shuttle crew completed some 80 scientific
3 experiments and much of their research data had al-
4 ready been relayed to Houston where it has added
5 to the pool of scientific knowledge.

6 (3) The Nation pays tribute to the memory of
7 Colonel Rick Husband, Lieutenant Colonel Michael
8 Anderson, Commander Laurel Clark, Captain David
9 Brown, Commander William McCool, Dr. Kapana
10 Chawla, and Ilan Ramon, a colonel in the Israeli air
11 force. The diversity of crew represented the ideals of
12 our Nation.

13 (4) These seven courageous explorers paid the
14 ultimate price to improve our understanding of the
15 universe, to advance our medical and engineering
16 sciences, to make the Nation safer and more secure,
17 and to keep the United States economy on the cut-
18 ting edge of technology.

19 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

20 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
21 authorized, on behalf of the Congress, to award a gold
22 medal of appropriate design to each of the seven crew
23 members of the space shuttle Columbia—

24 (1) Rick D. Husband;

25 (2) Michael P. Anderson;

- 1 (3) Laurel Clark;
- 2 (4) David M. Brown;
- 3 (5) William C. McCool;
- 4 (6) Kapana Chawla; and
- 5 (7) Ilan Ramon.

6 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
7 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
8 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
9 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
10 Secretary.

11 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

12 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
13 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
14 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe,
15 and at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, includ-
16 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead
17 expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

18 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

19 The medals struck under this Act are national medals
20 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

21 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

22 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
23 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
24 Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed

1 \$30,0000 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by
2 this Act.

3 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
4 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
5 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
6 Fund.

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