

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.

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## 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

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## 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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