

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 45

Commemorating the Columbia astronauts.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BOND, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CORZINE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DODD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. ENSIGN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. INOUE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. NICKLES, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MILLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SMITH, Mr. REED, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. REID, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TALENT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the Columbia astronauts.

Whereas the United States of America and the world mourn the seven astronauts who perished aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia on February 1, 2003, as they re-entered Earth's atmosphere at the conclusion of their 16-day mission;

Whereas United States Air Force Colonel Rick D. Husband, Mission Commander; United States Navy Commander William "Willie" McCool, Pilot; United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, Payload Commander/Mission Specialist; United States Navy Captain David M. Brown, Mission Specialist; United States Navy Commander Laurel Blair Salton Clark, Mission Specialist; Dr. Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist; and Israeli Air Force Colonel Ilan Ramon, Payload Specialist were killed in the line of duty during the 113th Space Shuttle Mission;

Whereas we stand in awe of the courage necessary to break the bonds of Earth and venture into space, with full knowledge of the perils and complexities inherent in such an endeavor;

Whereas the people of the United States and the world have enjoyed rich benefits from the space program including technological advances in medicine, communications, energy, agronomy, and astronomy;

Whereas we in the Congress of the United States recognize that curiosity, wonder and the desire to improve life on Earth has inspired our exploration of space and these traits epitomize the intrinsic dreams of the human race;

Whereas, despite these lofty goals, we realize that our reach for the stars will never be without risk or peril, and setbacks will always be a part of the human experience;

Whereas we recognize our solemn duty to devote our finest minds and resources toward minimizing these risks and protecting the remarkable men and women who are willing to risk their lives to serve mankind; and

Whereas we will always hold in our hearts the seven intrepid souls of Columbia, as well as those explorers who perished before, including those aboard Apollo I and the Space Shuttle Challenger: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the tragedy which befell the Space Shuttle
3 Columbia shall not dissuade or discourage this Na-
4 tion from venturing ever farther into the vastness of
5 space;

6 (2) today we restate our firm commitment to
7 exploring the planets and celestial bodies of our
8 Solar System, and beyond;

9 (3) we express our eternal sorrow and heartfelt
10 condolences to the families of the seven astronauts;

11 (4) we convey our condolences to our friends
12 and allies in the state of Israel over the loss of Colo-
13 nel Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli in space;

14 (5) we will never forget the sacrifices made by
15 the seven heroes aboard Columbia; and

16 (6) we shall learn from this tragedy so that
17 these sacrifices shall not have been in vain.

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