

would have more incentive to invest in new jobs and new equipment. As a result, our economy is strong, and growing stronger. Economic output in the third quarter rose at its fastest annual pace in nearly 20 years. More manufacturers reported rising factory activity than at any point in the last 20 years. American homeownership reached its highest level ever. Employment is on the rise. By cutting tax rates on investment gains and dividend payments, we promoted saving, capital formation, and investment—and Americans' holdings in the stock market rose by almost \$3 trillion.

There is still more to do, however. We cannot be satisfied until every American looking for work has found a job. We must sustain the momentum of this recovery by making the tax relief passed in 2001 and 2003 permanent. We will continue to open markets abroad for American products. And as the economy improves, we will also confront the challenge faced by workers who must learn new skills to fill new jobs. As a Nation, we must help Americans develop the skills they need to succeed in a highly competitive, highly productive economy. And so this Budget continues to support high standards for our schools and proposes a Jobs for the 21st Century initiative to ensure older students and adults can gain the skills they need to find work now.

Economic growth and good stewardship of taxpayer dollars will help us meet another important priority: cutting the budget deficit brought on by recession and war. We must continue to evaluate each Federal program, to make sure that it meet its goals, and produces and desired results. I proposed to hold discretionary spending growth below four percent, less than the average rate of growth of American family incomes. And spending unrelated to defense and homeland security will be held below one percent growth—less than the rate of inflation—while continuing to meet education, health care, and other priorities of this Nation. With this spending restraint and continued pro-growth economic policies, we can cut the deficit in half over the next five years.

Finally, this Budget addresses the needs of a great and compassionate Nation, whose values are strong, and whose institutions of hope are enduring. We are helping communities of faith pull the addicted out of dependency. We are lifting children out of a life of despair by making sure they have mentors, and we will continue to press for improvements in our schools, so that no child is left behind. We are extending hope and healing to millions suffering from the global epidemic of AIDS. We will begin to implement of the benefits of our Medicare modernization and reform law, which will bring all our seniors coverage for prescription drugs. And we will make health care more affordable and extend the full benefits of our health care system to more Americans who currently have no health insurance.

Meeting these priorities will require hard work, skill, and the resources of a great Nation. Yet America has always risen to new challenges, and has always set new goals. Challenge and change have revealed the true strengths of this Nation and the enterprise of its people. And as 2004 begins, I am confident those gifts will serve us again, until our work is done.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
February 2, 2004.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes, if postponed, will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXPRESSING SORROW ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA" ACCIDENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 507), expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* their lives, and extending heartfelt sympathy to their families.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 507

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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 507.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for bringing this very important resolution to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, we can still see their faces. Their friends can still hear their hearty laughter. And their families can still feel their embrace. At every mention of their names or reminder of their courage, our hearts ache with the hollow pangs of mourning and our thoughts and prayers turn to their loved ones. For there is no loss like the loss of a hero. And 1 year ago our Nation and our world lost seven.

Though they came from different nations, practiced different faiths, and sought answers to different mysteries, the winding road of providence brought them all to one place on earth where their common calling could be answered. They came to Johnson Space Center.

And there, at America's great laboratory of the impossible, they trained and studied, alongside the finest collection of public servants that I know, inching ever closer to their dreams and their destiny. And though we still mourn 1 year later, it is their lives that we honor in this resolution, not their loss.

Columbia's "corps of discovery" may be gone, but death has no power over the memory of heroes. It is left to us, then, in this House and in this Nation to live up to the challenge their lives of service issued: Will we carry on America's mission in space or will we ignore our deepest yearnings for knowledge and tether mankind to "the surly bonds of earth"? I think we know what the *Columbia* seven would say.

And if there be any doubt, just walk outside on a clear night, look into the southern sky and ask them.

For immortal in death, the *Columbia* heroes live on at home in the heavens, among the ancient stars that first stirred their souls, looking down on us all with love and hope, lighting our way through the darkness. They will answer you.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I come to this floor today just as I did a year ago, unfortunately, with a feeling of sadness.

I am an original cosponsor of this resolution that is before us today, House Resolution 507, because I believe that it is important that we never forget the sacrifices made by the brave and dedicated men and women of STS-107: Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark, Ilan Ramon. Each one of them gave the last full measure of devotion to the cause of space exploration.

There have been numerous ceremonies over the past few days to remember the crew of *Columbia*, including yesterday's memorial service at Arlington Cemetery. I think it is important for this body as well, the United States House of Representatives, also to pause in our deliberations to express again our profound gratitude for their service and our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones on the anniversary of their deaths.

Back home, the space shuttle and the International Space Station take on a very personal dimension. All the astronauts in the NASA program, including the seven aboard the *Columbia*, are a part of our community. They are our friends, our neighbors. Their kids go to schools with our kids. They shop at the same grocery stores and pray at the same churches and synagogues.

The employees and contractors of Johnson Space Center are connected to the astronauts not just at work but in their everyday life. The community at JSC is an extended family.

Amidst all the lofty talk, ceremonies, and resolutions, let us not forget that a community and seven families lost friends, brothers, fathers, sons, wives, sisters, mothers, and daughters. Back in Clear Lake, right off the campus of JSC, there is a place called Frenchie's. It is a place where astronauts and employees go after work to relax a bit, have a meal or something, share their experiences and bond in a very special way.

I stopped by there the Saturday evening after the *Columbia* tragedy, and that day there was a feeling of crushing sadness and loss but also a hope that the vision and dream that those seven heroes died for will not be lost but instead will be reborn, that their loss will remind the American people of the great challenge we face and the prospect of a better world that the space program gives us.

The crew of STS-107 would not want us to dwell only on their deaths. Instead, I believe they would want us to reflect on the cause for which they gave their lives: the exploration of space. And I have no doubt that they would want us to rededicate ourselves to the task of ensuring that this Nation continues that exploration.

It is unfortunate that it took the *Columbia* tragedy to remind many of our citizens that space flight is not routine, it is hard. It is dangerous. The crew of *Columbia* knew that and yet they did not cease from exploring. Neither should we.

We have serious work to do over the next coming months in determining the best path for our America's space program. There are likely to be strong opinions and differing views on how best to proceed. And that is all to the good. America's space program is too important to the future of this country for us not to give it serious attention.

I welcome the discussion and debate as long as it leads to some clear decisions and commitments by both the Congress and the White House. However, that is not a task for today. Today we pause to remember the crew of STS-107, to offer our condolences to all who loved them.

I speak today not just as a Member of Congress, but as part of a community that firmly believes in what Rick Husband and William McCool and Michael Anderson and David Brown and Kalpana Chawla and Laurel Blair and Ilan Ramon gave their lives for.

On behalf of the Ninth District of Texas and the people of the Johnson Space Center and that community, I urge this country and this body to go forward, and I urge my colleagues to join us in support of H. Res. 507.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on January 16, 2003, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* lifted off from Kennedy Space Center on a 16-day mission. The mission would take the *Columbia* seven astronauts on a journey of over 6 million miles. While in orbit the STS-107 conducted important microgravity research in areas that would impact the lives of all mankind.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, like many who live in north Texas, I was home in the district that weekend, and I will never forget the sonic boom, a sonic boom that was more felt than heard, that morning in north Texas. When *Columbia* broke up in the Texas sky on the morning of February 1, 2003, the seven astronauts aboard were 16 minutes from home, 16 minutes from completion of a successful mission, 16 minutes from once again seeing their loved ones.

The final comm check to *Columbia* from mission control at Johnson Space Center went unanswered. The families awaiting the crew's return at Kennedy were welcomed by an empty sky.

For those looking up at the north Texas sky that morning, it was painfully evident that something had gone terribly amiss.

Today it is our duty to honor the seven brave astronauts who perished in the Shuttle *Columbia* accident a little over a year ago. The crew included Commander Rick Husband, Pilot William McCool, Payload Commander Michael Anderson, Mission Specialist David Brown, Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist Laurel Blair Salton Clark, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon.

Knowing full well the dangers of space flight, they faced them willingly. Because of their courage, we will miss them even more.

During the past year NASA has undergone a serious investigation in the causes of this accident. And over the last year the agency has learned from its tragedies as well as its triumphs. The recent success of the Mars Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, show that the United States is a leader in space exploration. But we must remember that failures in this realm can often have very human consequences. Since the loss of *Columbia*, the President and Congress have been working to map out a clear mission for NASA and to restructure human space flight programs around that mission. As we continue this process, we cannot afford to forget the memories of the seven *Columbia* astronauts that fateful day.

Yesterday, the Administrator of NASA, Sean O'Keefe, dedicated a memorial to the *Columbia* astronauts at Arlington National Cemetery. In a place dedicated to fallen liberators and defenders of freedom, it is a fitting memorial to honor those who gave their lives in pursuit of knowledge and in pursuit of discovery.

President Bush has said the cause of "exploration and discovery is not an option that we choose. It is a desire

written into the human heart. We find the best among us, send them forth into unmapped darkness, and pray that they will return. They go in peace for all mankind and all mankind is in their debt."

Our sympathies go out to the grieving families and, indeed, the sympathies of this body and of a grateful Nation. It is an honor to stand here today to honor the sacrifices of these explorers.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), who represents many of the friends and family of the lost crew members of the STS-107.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) very much. And might I take a personal point of privilege to congratulate the gentleman as the new ranking member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics of our very great committee, the Committee on Science.

Let me also thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for his leadership in allowing us to come to the floor today and join in a bipartisan manner of celebration but also commemoration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 507 enthusiastically but with some sorrow and some recognition. Allow me to acknowledge that day as one of public and global shock. And so we continue to mourn publicly and globally, not just in the United States, but around the world.

As my good friend and colleague said, these were our friends and neighbors, those of us who came from Houston. We knew them as they worshipped, as they have practiced their trade, but also as they played. So I rise in support of this resolution and commend my colleagues from Texas for taking the time to honor the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* who lost their lives a year ago.

When the *Columbia* went down the world lost a great symbol of human ingenuity and creativity. Those of us from Houston, as I said, lost friends and neighbors and, of course, family members and brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles and a myriad of relationships.

I would like to look back one more time on what we have lost, seven of humankind's greatest heroes, Colonel Rick Husband, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, Commander Laurel Clark, Captain David Brown, Commander William McCool, Dr. Kapana Chawla, and Colonel Ilan Ramon.

Let me also acknowledge the thousands upon thousands of NASA employees around the Nation. I know they mourn and I know they care as they are caring and mourning at this time.

I also want to pay special respect to Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Husband, who graced our presence on Sunday, February 1, in their words and remarks at Grace Community Church, again, a place of honor for those two men, along with their colleagues where they attended and where I was able to worship with them just a year ago as we honored and mourned those great fallen heroes.

Those seven courageous explorers paid the ultimate price to improve our understanding of the universe, to advance our medical and engineering services, to keep the United States' economy on the cutting edge of technology, and to inspire young and old.

We look forward to this budgeting process where we hope the President will join us by using his economic and engine arm, if you will, to push the vision forward by the right appropriations for what we may need to do.

Mr. Speaker, I am also a proud cosponsor of this resolution as was noted. I thank the sponsors who are on the floor in joining with 238 of my other colleague who have joined me in cosponsoring the bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously to the seven members of the *Columbia* crew.

I ask my colleagues to join us in signing on to this resolution, to give to the families a special Congressional Gold Medal that they can hold and pass down to their children and generations to come.

This gold medal would honor the families of the crew members by awarding them this particular tribute, and it would also require the Secretary of the Treasury to make bronze duplicates of that medal available for sale to the public to serve as an enduring reminder of the sacrifice of these brave pioneers. That means that they can have something that will add investment to the future of space.

NASA is a source of dreams for our young and old alike, providing insights into the origins, destiny and wonder of our universe. In pursuing the noble goal of exploration, NASA also conducts scientific space-based research, develops innovations that save lives, spur our economy and keep us on the cutting edge of technology. NASA has developed systems that make our satellites and communications infrastructure more reliable and less vulnerable to cyber-terrorism.

NASA inspires young engineers and scientists. In essence, Mr. Speaker, NASA is worthy of our support. It is worthy of the vision. Let us support NASA as we go into 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and commend my colleague from Texas for taking the time to honor the crew of Space Shuttle *Columbia*, who lost their lives a year ago. When the *Columbia* went down, the world lost a great symbol of human ingenuity and creativity. Those of us from Houston also lost friends and neighbors that day. I would like to look back one more time on what we have lost—seven of humankind's greatest he-

roes: Colonel Rick Husband, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, Commander Laurel Clark, Captain David Brown, Commander William McCool, Dr. Kapana Chawla, and Colonel Ilan Ramon. Those seven courageous explorers paid the ultimate price to improve our understanding of the universe, to advance our medical and engineering sciences, to keep the United States economy on the cutting edge of technology, and to inspire young and old alike.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution, and would also like to thank Mr. BURGESS for joining with 238 other Members of Congress in cosponsoring a bill I have introduced, which would posthumously award the seven members of the *Columbia* crew with the Congressional Gold Medal. It would honor the families of the crewmembers, but it would do more than that. It would also require the Secretary of the Treasury to make bronze duplicates of that medal available for sale to the public, to serve as an enduring reminder of the sacrifice of those brave pioneers. I am sure sales of those medallions would more than pay for the cost of producing the Gold Medals. I hope to see that bill go forward soon, as we continue to focus on the *Columbia*, what it meant to us, and what it means to our future.

NASA is a source of dreams for our young and old alike, providing insights into the origins, destiny, and wonder, of our universe. In pursuing the noble goal of exploration, NASA also conducts scientific space-based research, develops innovations that save lives, spur on our economy, and keep us on the cutting edge of technology. NASA has developed systems that make our satellites and communications infrastructure more reliable and less vulnerable to cyberterrorism. NASA inspires young engineers, scientists—and all sorts of people who want to a part of something truly great and noble—to push their minds to new levels of excellence. These people become role models for future generations of intellectual pioneers.

The astronauts aboard the *Columbia* were of the highest caliber, exemplifying our Nation's pioneering ideals and always striving for excellence. They were skilled professionals, scientists, clinicians, and adventurers. They were family men and women, and we will cherish their contributions to our country and the world. The crew of the *Columbia* represented the diversity of our Nation, and our spirit of collaboration with other nations.

We honor the seven members of the crew for their heroism and spirit. We pay tribute to the sacrifices made by these men and women on behalf of the country. They helped mankind reach new heights. As we look back with sorrow on what we lost a year ago, I hope we can also celebrate the great accomplishments and spirit of the *Columbia* crew.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the chairman of the Committee on Science.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for introducing this resolution and for calling attention to the memory of great Americans and an Israeli.

Husband, McCool, Anderson, Brown, Chawla, Clark, Ramon, One year after their tragic deaths, their names remain seared in our national memory.

Of course, their loss is felt most deeply by those who call them mother, father, husband, wife, neighbor, friends; but they are an inspiration to us all. Their deaths have not been in vain. They have prompted young people to think about what they can be when they grow up and about how Americans take great risk in striving for great achievement.

Our Nation's space program is built on the dreams and aspirations of an exploring people willing to take risk. This Congress is proud of our explorers, those who have returned and those few whom fate has held back.

With this resolution we honor the seven men and women who flew the Shuttle *Columbia's* final fateful mission. They will never be forgotten. Their memory will live in the hearts and minds of all Americans, and explorers throughout the world will always think of them as they gaze towards the heavens with wonder and amazement and awe.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Dallas, Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), in whose district some of the shuttle actually came down.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me hasten to thank the leaders of this resolution and all of the cosponsors and our esteemed leaders of the committee.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 507, expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the lives of the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

Let me express my appreciation to all of the members of the committee that has been nonpartisan and cohesive in considering all of our concerns coming before that esteemed committee.

I am very certain that the lives of these people have not been lost in vain. This space exploration research program has been one of the most successful research programs in the history of our country. We know that because we have investigated, we have listened to reports that we will improve upon what caused this accident, and we can hopefully say that this will never happen again.

Over 40 years ago the foresight of persons that came along before us caused us to get into this type of research. We also owe those leaders some homage for their foresight, and I am hoping that we will then have the foresight to continue the research.

Human space exploration is inherently risky. Distance, speed and environment that cannot support human life combine to make human space flights particularly precarious. Unfortunately, the world has new evidence of the dangers associated with space exploration. Millions watched as images of a singular, brilliant point of light in the sky became two, three and four points of light as the Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke apart over my home State of Texas and my hometown of Dallas.

Today we honor these brave men and women on the anniversary of their fateful 16-day mission dedicated to research in physical, life and space sciences. This most unfortunate and tragic loss of five men and two women, representing the faces of a diversity of races and nationalities, will be mourned for these great American heroes and heroines, and we will never forget the reasons why they were in space, exploring how we can make life better on this Earth.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER). I know that in East Texas thousands of people turned out to look for the remains of the shuttle and they came down in the district of the gentleman.

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON), for sponsoring this resolution.

It was one year ago that we all shared in the tragedy of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. A team of seven astronauts traveling back home from the frontier of outer space paid the ultimate sacrifice as their spacecraft broke apart across the blue skies of East Texas. The seven who perished showed great patriotism and courage, serving our Nation in the field of the space exploration.

The NASA astronaut corps is the very best and brightest of our Nation, men and women unafraid to strap themselves into a spacecraft and launch off into the unknown so that our Nation and our world can expand our knowledge and improve our well-being.

These astronauts were pursuing their dreams and ours. And when tragedy struck their ship, a Nation in grief united to show honor to their service. Over 25,000 workers and volunteers spent months searching through the woods and fields of East Texas, seeking to recover the *Columbia* and her crew. In towns like Hemphill, Rusk, Nacogdoches, San Augustine and Lufkin, the citizens of East Texas and my congressional district responded as did all citizens across America.

East Texans are patriotic folks who are known to help a neighbor or friend in need. For weeks on end they combed through the thickets of the piney woods, they cooked meals, they brought in supplies, they gave shelter to those who came from all across America to help.

□ 1445

The NASA family became a part of the East Texas family, and they will always remain in our hearts. The scriptures bring us solace and hope in times like these. The psalmist David wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day, they pour forth speech. Night after night they display knowledge."

Today, we remember the crew of the *Columbia* and their legacy. We remember their sacrifice and honor their family and friends who remain in our prayers on this difficult anniversary.

The seven brave astronauts who died would want us to look forward to the future with determination to press on. They would want us to uphold the mission of NASA in times of tragedy, as well as in times of triumph, and most of all, they would want us to keep reaching, to keep learning more, to explore more, to venture on into space for the benefit of all mankind.

Today, we honor Colonel Rick Husband, Commander William McCool, Dr. Kalpana Chawla, Dr. Laurel Clark, Dr. David Brown, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, Colonel Ilan Ramon. A grateful Nation will always remember, and in their memory, may we never cease to reach for the heavens.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my friend who was visiting in Houston this weekend.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I rise today to join with my colleagues in remembering the loss of the seven astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on February 1, 2003, as well as to express our heartfelt sympathies to the families of Rick 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.

The seven astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* were on a 16-day scientific mission. The mission held the promise of answering scientific problems that we confront here on earth. The lives and sacrifices of these seven men and women should be remembered. That is why last year I wrote a letter urging the United States Postal Service to design a stamp that would honor them and the space program.

The space program has meant a great deal to our Nation, and its benefits to mankind are enormous. The brave crew of the Shuttle *Columbia* was disembarking from a mission which they believed in and loved doing. They are indeed fallen heroes who are held in high regard as role models for many children around the world who dream of going to space someday.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women represented the best and the brightest of what America and the world has to offer. They were willing to go to the outer limits to explore for the benefit of all humanity. As Socrates said, "Man must rise above the earth, to the top of the world, to the top of the atmosphere and beyond, for only thus will he fully understand the world in which he lives."

Once again, our heart goes out to the families and colleagues of these brave

men and women who gave the most that they had to offer; indeed their lives, for the cost of space.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to extend my appreciation and commendation to the managers of this important legislation, commending the 1-year anniversary of this tragic event that occurred to these seven astronauts that represented our Nation. I was privileged to be a member of the congressional delegation that personally visited Texas last year when we conducted a very special service on behalf of these great Americans.

I think if there is anything that I can remember well on this special service that was held last year was the fact of the diversity of these distinguished Americans. I recall one whose ancestry was from the country of India, and we had a gentleman also who was a former pilot representing the State of Israel, showing the idea that this is not just an American project.

I think what this sacrifice extends in my understanding, and certainly my belief, is how much humanity that there was in the efforts and the sacrifices that these great people made and certainly I would like to extend my condolences and appreciation to the families of these seven astronauts who paid the ultimate price, giving of their lives for the betterment of this troubled world that we live in.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers at this time. I would just thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for the work he has done on H. Res. 507. I urge my colleagues to join us in passage.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2003, the tragic accident of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* took the lives of seven of our finest Americans. One year later, this sad event remains fresh in our minds, and we continue to share in the sorrow of those who lost their loved ones and family members that terrible day.

Among the brave astronauts aboard the *Columbia* was Dr. Laurel Clark of Racine, Wisconsin. All of those who knew Laurel were touched by her extraordinary life and are still coping with the pain that her absence has caused. It is very difficult to lose a mother, a wife, a daughter, a sister and a friend, and our thoughts should be with Laurel's family and loved ones as they continue to honor her memory.

Although Laurel Clark lived only 41 years on this earth, she was accomplished as a doctor, a scientist and a mother. She poured her energy into her many pursuits and showed us that with focus, passion and dedication, it is possible to achieve your dreams. Laurel also never forgot the importance of family, and it is impossible to quantify the joy that she brought to those closest to her.

Unwavering in her efforts to improve the world, Laurel began with those around her. In

the end, she made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of this cause, hoping that the scientific research she conducted in space could provide a better world for all humanity. As we honor the life of Laurel Clark, we must never forget the joy, happiness and everlasting inspiration that she brought to the world, and we should strive to live our lives as she did.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, words are not sufficient to describe how I felt on Saturday morning, February 1, 2003, when the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus announced that the Space Shuttle *Columbia* had gone down. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the astronauts we lost. One year later, we remember and honor *Columbia*'s crew whose lives were precious to all Americans.

As part of the positive legacy emanating from the *Columbia* space shuttle disaster, I want to take this opportunity to commend three Dorsey High School Students from my Congressional District—Atiabet Ijan Amabel, Cristina Mojarro, and Juan Carlos Ortega—for participating in the STARS Academy research mission which assisted the students, along with their counterparts from China, in formulating and constructing a silk worm experiment that was placed aboard the shuttle.

The STARS Academy is an online cultural and scientific global learning program. It incorporates a standards based curriculum in math, science, language arts, geography, and technology. On the STS-107 mission, schools from six countries developed life and physical sciences experiments, while working with astronauts, space scientists, engineers, and other experts. For this mission the participating schools came from: Australia—Spider Experiment; Israel—Crystalline fiber growth; Japan—Medaka fish growth; USA—Syracuse Ants Experiment; Liechtenstein—Carpenter Bee Experiment; and China & USA—Silk Worm Experiment.

Mr. Speaker, despite the tragic events, this is an historic moment for Dorsey High School and its students who participated in the silk-worm experiment. Their projects and dedication to science are fitting honors to the astronauts who lost their lives and an inspiration to all future space explorers.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow for the crew and family members of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* disaster.

While Sunday marked the one year anniversary of the space shuttle tragedy, the memory and dedication of the *Columbia* crew must never be forgotten. The seven astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*—six American and one Israeli—exemplified the courage and commitment that have been the hallmark of America's space program for decades. Their efforts to better understand the heavens and advance the cause of scientific discovery added greatly to our society and our Nation's vision for the future.

I am especially saddened by the loss of Flight Engineer and Mission Specialist Dr. Kalpana Chawla. K.C., as she was known by her friends and coworkers, received her master's of aerospace engineering degree from the University of Texas at Arlington in my Congressional District.

A native of India, K.C. was the first woman from her country to enter space. Selected amongst thousands of applicants by NASA in 1994, she never forgot her time in Arlington or her Indian roots. In fact, among some of the

items that she took with her into space was a UTA T-shirt with "UT Arlington Aerospace Engineering" printed on one side and "As a matter of fact, I am a rocket scientist," on the other.

K.C. took great pride in her Indian roots. She believed her entry into space was a great accomplishment for her country and was impressed by the level of support that her fellow Indians expressed for her. In a final e-mail that she sent to the students of her hometown school, she said: "The path from dreams to success does exist; may you have the vision to find it, the courage to get onto it and the perseverance to follow it. Wishing you a great journey."

As we stop to remember and reflect upon the life of Dr. Kalpana Chawla and her fellow crew members of *Columbia*, we must assure ourselves that their lives were not lost in vain. We must continue the mission to explore space and to educate the underprivileged about the mission that K.C. and her fellow astronauts embarked upon.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of all the astronauts as they continue to mourn the loss of these amazing heroes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the crew of *Columbia*. The names Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon will now forever be linked to the risks and rewards of exploring the frontier. They were all extraordinary people.

Rick Husband. A man of strong faith in God. A man who dreamed of taking part in space travel since his childhood in Amarillo, Texas. A family man, committed to his community. He set the highest of standards for us all.

William McCool. A man who personified excellence in all he did. From San Diego, since the earliest age, he dreamed of flying and followed his dream with an unending fount of energy and skill. While gifted, he never showed any hubris; in fact, he was always humble—something we all could learn from.

Michael Anderson. From Pittsburgh, he had a drive uncommon to most people. He loved science and learning. He followed his passion for science. This led him to NASA and space flight. He knew his responsibility as an astronaut and took every opportunity to talk to schoolchildren about the excitement and value of space exploration.

Kalpana Chawla. She lived a uniquely American life. Born and raised in India, she came to America as an immigrant. She worked hard and studied engineering and science. She became an American citizen and from there became an astronaut. She made her home nation and her adopted nation proud of her in all that she did.

David Brown. Truly a man for all seasons. He was a physician, a Navy pilot, and member of the astronaut corp. Everything he set out to do, he accomplished. He had many other goals he was anxious to accomplish after this mission was completed.

Laurel Clark. A wife. A mother. A physician. An astronaut. She was aware of what a special honor it was to be selected to fly in space. She was thankful for the special opportunity that she had. She lived life to the fullest. She enjoyed scuba diving and flying airplanes. Everything she did, she loved.

Ilan Ramon. The first Israeli in space. A dedicated and brave pilot. The son of Holocaust survivor. He is an inspiration to a small, determined nation.

Commander Husband, on the evening before they launched, shared with his crew and their families, his favorite passage from the book of Joshua. This is instructive for all of us as we reflect on this tragedy: "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

That is where we are as a nation right now. We live in a dangerous world with many challenges facing us. The measure of a truly great nation is one that can face down its challenges on earth and excel and lead the world to a higher level.

That is why we have NASA and why we must recommit ourselves, now more than ever, to the dream and adventure of human space flight that was such a part of the lives of these brave men and women.

How we decided to respond to this tragedy will be judged very closely by many generations that come after us. I am proud to say that the President has risen to the occasion and has charted a bold new exploration initiative. We cannot let future generations down and walk away from our destiny in space. The *Columbia 7* will be memorialized by a great, strong, robust return to space by America.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and our Nation in remembering the *Columbia* space shuttle tragedy of one year ago. The people of Guam join their fellow Americans today in remembrance, prayer, and tribute for the crew of STS-107 and all that they stood for and represented in their careers and lives.

Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, Rick Husband, Willie McCool, and Ilan Ramon were many different things to many different people. They were mothers and fathers, wives and husbands, daughters and sons, teachers and friends. There is one thing, however, that unites them all. They are all heroes in the truest sense of the word. Today, we reflect upon their lives and the qualities that they embodied. We draw our strength and resolve from the example they set and we remain committed to our nation's space program in their honor and because of what they have taught us.

Guam remembers today Commander Willie McCool, who piloted the *Columbia* on that fateful day one year ago. Commander McCool lived in Guam while his father served as a Navy pilot and attended Dededo Middle School and John F. Kennedy High School. He later married Lani Vallejos of Dededo, Guam. While America lost a hero, Guam lost a son in the aftermath of the *Columbia* tragedy. Today I extend my prayers and thoughts to his wife Lani, their children, Sean, Christopher, and Cameron, and their extended family in Guam.

I also extend my prayers and thoughts to his parents, Barry and Audrey McCool, and to his father and mother-in-law, Albert and Atilana Vallejos, of Dededo, Guam.

My first bill in Congress was H.R. 672, which renamed the Guam South Elementary/Middle School of the Department of Defense Domestic Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools System in honor of Commander McCool. President Bush signed this bill into law on April 22, 2003 and on August 29, 2003 the school was dedicated in his honor during an emotional ceremony attended by family, military officials, government dignitaries and fellow astronauts Piers Sellers and Stephanie Wilson. At this ceremony, Guam Governor Felix Camacho posthumously bestowed upon Commander McCool the Ancient Order of the Chamorro, the highest award given on behalf of the people of Guam in recognition of substantial contributions to the betterment of society. Commander McCool's beacon of light will continue to shine and inspire young and old alike to look towards the stars and dream big dreams.

Commander McCool blessed our island and indeed our country with his passion, intellect, and purpose. The people of Guam are proud to call him one of our own and will always remember him as a role model for our children. The inspiration Commander McCool has been to our people is something that will not fade and that can never be taken away. This past weekend the people of Guam gathered in the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica in our capital city of Hagåtña to pay tribute to Commander McCool and the *Columbia* crew, to recall their accomplishments, and to pray for their families.

In remembering Commander McCool I am always touched by a poem he wrote while attending Dededo Middle School in Guam. Reading the poem today, it has an eerie quality that shows not only his love of Guam, but a glimpse into his future career as an astronaut:

I came to an island in the middle of the sea,
It was so nice that I jumped for glee.
There are palm trees, coconuts, and bananas too,
Plus birds and fish so unbelievable but true.
It is so nice that no one can complain.
But he who does must be insane.
This is such a nice and beautiful place,
You'd think it was heaven—or outer space.

He signed this poem, "William 'Willie' McCool, Dededo beep! beep! Roadrunner," referring to his school's mascot.

Let us always remember Willie's devotion to his family, to the people of Guam, to our country, and to the betterment of the world. I thank my colleague, Mr. BURGESS, for offering this resolution today. God Bless the *Columbia* crew and their families.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 507.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CORRECTING TECHNICAL ERRORS IN ENROLLMENT OF S. 610, NASA FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2003.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 354) to correct technical errors in the enrollment of the bill S. 610, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 354

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That, in the enrollment of the bill (S. 610) to amend the provision of title 5, United States Code, to provide for workforce flexibilities and certain Federal personnel provisions relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, to provide for workforce flexibilities and certain Federal personnel provisions relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes."

(2) In section 1, strike "2003" and insert "2004".

(3) In section 3(b), strike "by adding at the end" and insert "by inserting after the item relating to chapter 97".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BY CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORTS TO END CHINESE OCCUPATION OF TIBET

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 157) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding several individuals who are being held as prisoners of conscience by the Chinese Government for their involvement in efforts to end the Chinese occupation of Tibet.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 157

Whereas for more than 1,000 years Tibet has maintained a sovereign national identity that is distinct from the national identity of China;

Whereas armed forces of the People's Republic of China invaded Tibet in 1949 and 1950 and have occupied it since then;