

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 24

Commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the loss of the Space Shuttle
Columbia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2013

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HELLER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COBURN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the loss of the
Space Shuttle Columbia.

Whereas a sense of adventure is innate to the human spirit;

Whereas the urge to explore continues to motivate the United
States as a nation;

Whereas the global leadership of the United States is deter-
mined by the resolve of the people of the United States;

Whereas the drive to innovate and explore has led the people
of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
and related industry and education leaders to make im-

portant discoveries with a broad impact on humanity, in spite of inherent risk;

Whereas the men and women of the space program of the United States have captured the curiosity of the people of the United States, inspiring generations of scientists, engineers, and pioneers, and delivering technological advances and innovation, scientific research, and international partnerships to the benefit of nearly all sectors of the economy of the United States;

Whereas, on February 1, 2003, the United States joined the world in mourning the loss of 7 astronauts who perished aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia as it re-entered the atmosphere of the Earth;

Whereas United States Air Force Colonel Rick D. Husband, Mission Commander; United States Navy Commander William “Willie” C. 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 B. Clark, Mission Specialist; Dr. Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist; and Israeli Air Force Colonel Ilan Ramon, Payload Specialist were killed in the line of duty and in pursuit of discovery during the STS–107 mission;

Whereas the people of the United States are driven to continue the exploration and pursuit of discovery with as much passion and determination as these brave men and women;

Whereas an innate curiosity about what lies beyond our world drives us to expand the limits of human exploration and

discovery in space, in the furtherance of the leadership and strategic interests of the United States;

Whereas exploring the heavens and the celestial bodies of the solar system is not without great risk and peril;

Whereas the loss of the 7 brave souls aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia and others who have sacrificed their lives in pursuit of human space exploration shall forever serve as a solemn reminder of the firm commitment of the United States to devote the capacity and resources necessary to improve safety, minimize risk, and do everything possible to protect the next generation of explorers willing to risk themselves in the service of mankind;

Whereas those involved in the Space Shuttle program of the United States have sought to apply the lessons learned from the Space Shuttle Columbia accident to future human spaceflight by the United States, which included 22 additional program missions and shepherding the Space Shuttle program to its safe and successful conclusion;

Whereas the lessons learned from the Space Shuttle Columbia accident should be applied to current policy of the space program of the United States; and

Whereas the people of the United States will not forget the sacrifice of those 7 determined explorers aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, as well as others who perished in the exploration of the unknown: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) remembers the 7 astronauts who tragically

3 lost their lives aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia as

1 it re-entered the atmosphere of the Earth 10 years
2 ago on February 1, 2003;

3 (2) expresses its condolences to the friends and
4 families of the astronauts who died that day;

5 (3) commends those who have honored the
6 memory of the Space Shuttle Columbia over the past
7 decade, including the employees of Federal, State,
8 and local agencies, as well as regular citizens and
9 volunteers, who assisted in the debris recovery and
10 accident investigation process; and

11 (4) reaffirms the commitment of the people and
12 the Government of the United States to provide the
13 leadership and resources necessary to ensure robust
14 and safe human spaceflight capability in low Earth
15 orbit and beyond in the 21st century, to make cer-
16 tain that the sacrifice of those heroes shall not have
17 been in vain.

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