

By: Eissler

H.C.R. No. 38

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, On February 1, 2003, the space shuttle *Columbia* and
2 its entire crew of seven were lost in the skies over Texas, and this
3 tragic event has brought shock and a profound sense of loss to all
4 Americans and people the world over; and

5 WHEREAS, *Columbia's* crew, commander Rick Husband, pilot
6 William McCool, payload commander Michael Anderson, payload
7 specialist Ilan Ramon, and mission specialists Laurel Clark, David
8 Brown, and Kalpana Chawla hailed from across the United States, as
9 well as Israel and India, but were united in their willingness to
10 endure the dangers of spaceflight to expand mankind's scientific
11 knowledge; and

12 WHEREAS, Each crew member understood full well the joys of
13 flight as were immortalized by John Gillespie Magee, Jr., in his
14 poem *High Flight*:

15 "Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
16 And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
17 Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
18 Of sun-split clouds and done a hundred things
19 You have not dreamed of--wheeled and soared and swung
20 High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
21 I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
22 My eager craft through footless halls of air.
23 Up, up, up the long, delirious burning blue
24 I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace

1 Where never Lark, or even Eagle flew--
2 And while with silent lifting mind, I've trod
3 The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
4 Put out my hand and touched the face of God."; and

5 WHEREAS, The process of exploring and comprehending the world
6 around us has always been a driving force in human nature, and
7 although often fraught with peril, the fulfillment of that desire
8 continues to be among our most noble aspirations; and

9 WHEREAS, America's space program has witnessed tragedy
10 before with the deaths of three astronauts in the Apollo 1 fire of
11 1967, and in the 1986 *Challenger* explosion, which, like the loss of
12 *Columbia*, claimed the lives of an entire shuttle crew; in spite of
13 the nation's grief in the wake of these accidents, the United States
14 has continued its efforts in this visionary exploration because
15 abandoning them would not only limit our own potential for
16 understanding the universe but would also mean turning our backs on
17 the dreams of those who perished in the belief that man's reach,
18 even into the hostile and seemingly limitless expanse of space,
19 must always exceed his grasp; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
21 hereby pay tribute to the lives of the crew of the space shuttle
22 *Columbia* and extend sincere condolences to the members of their
23 families and to the many people who mourn their loss around the
24 globe; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for the members of their families and that when the Texas
27 House of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in

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1 memory of these heroic men and women, who gave their lives in
2 service to mankind.