

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 609

WHEREAS, The loss of the space shuttle *Columbia* was a calamity that touched the lives of many Texans, saddening those who lost beloved family members and friends, those who have devoted their careers to the field of space exploration, and all who were inspired by the courage and dedication of these fallen heroes; and

WHEREAS, Across the Lone Star State, Texans gathered to pay their respects to the men and women who sacrificed their lives in their pioneering attempts to expand the frontiers of space, and some of our state's residents went even further, personally offering their assistance by donating goods and services to the astronauts' families and to the various recovery teams in the aftermath of the tragic accident; included among them were three East Texas businesses that displayed exceptional professionalism in our state's time of need: the Hemphill Funeral Home in Hemphill, the Laird McGill Funeral Home in Nacogdoches, and the Carroway-Claybar Funeral Home in Lufkin; and

WHEREAS, The staff at each of these facilities volunteered their services to ensure that the remains of the deceased astronauts were cared for and transported with profound dignity, and the compassion and professionalism they showed at this difficult time earned them the lasting respect and admiration of a great many people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend the funeral home professionals who gave generously of their time and expertise to care for

S.R. No. 609

the remains of those killed in the *Columbia* accident: to John Everitt and director Roy Carroway of the Carroway-Claybar Funeral Home; to Debbie Green, John Byron Starr, and director John Starr of the Hemphill Funeral Home; and to Joe Osterhage, Ron Young, and director Lynn Laird of the Laird McGill Funeral Home; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That official copies of this Resolution be prepared for these individuals as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

Staples

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 14, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate