

By: Price

H.R. No. 317

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On the morning of February 1, 2003, the NASA space
2 shuttle *Columbia* broke apart in the skies over Texas, taking the
3 lives of its entire crew; the 10th anniversary of that tragedy
4 provides a fitting occasion to pay tribute to those seven
5 astronauts and to reflect on their heroism and sacrifice; and

6 WHEREAS, Hailing from across the nation and around the world,
7 the crew of the STS-107 mission exemplified the highest ideals of
8 the astronaut corps; crew commander Rick D. Husband was a native of
9 Amarillo and a U.S. Air Force colonel with more than 3,800 hours of
10 flight time in over 40 different types of aircraft; he had
11 previously served as pilot on the STS-96 *Discovery* mission, when
12 the first docking with the International Space Station was
13 accomplished; and

14 WHEREAS, Pilot William McCool was a graduate of Coronado High
15 School in Lubbock and the son of a Marine and naval aviator; he
16 followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a pilot in the U.S.
17 Navy; payload commander Michael P. Anderson, a lieutenant colonel
18 in the U.S. Air Force, had flown on the space shuttle *Endeavour* with
19 the STS-89 mission; born in Karnal, India, mission specialist
20 Kalpana Chawla held a doctorate in aerospace engineering and had
21 earlier served aboard *Columbia* on the STS-87 mission; and

22 WHEREAS, Mission specialist David M. Brown was a captain in
23 the U.S. Navy, a physician, and a fighter pilot; U.S. Navy captain
24 Laurel B. Clark was a mission specialist with previous experience

1 as a submarine medical officer and as a flight surgeon; payload
2 specialist Ilan Ramon was a colonel in the Israeli Air Force, where
3 he had excelled in his duties as a fighter pilot and squadron
4 commander; and

5 WHEREAS, This team of extraordinarily gifted men and women
6 made invaluable contributions to science, engineering, and the
7 history of spaceflight while furthering the tradition of
8 international cooperation that was a hallmark of the shuttle
9 program; through their courageous endeavors, they earned a place
10 among the great explorers of history, individuals who sought, in
11 the words of the poet Alfred Tennyson, "to strive, to seek, to find,
12 and not to yield"; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
14 Legislature hereby commemorate the 10th anniversary of the STS-107
15 *Columbia* mission and pay tribute to the memory of its valiant crew.