

H. Res. 943

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

February 6, 2008.

Whereas January 28, 2008, marks the 22-year anniversary of the tragic accident of the space shuttle Challenger, Mission 51-L, and the loss of seven of America's bravest and most dedicated citizens;

Whereas the space shuttle Challenger disaster occurred off the coast of central Florida, at 11:39 a.m. on January 28, 1986;

Whereas the space shuttle Challenger disintegrated 73 seconds into its flight after an O-ring seal in its right solid rocket booster failed at lift-off;

Whereas the seven-person crew on the shuttle included Commander Francis R. Scobee, Pilot Michael J. Smith, Mission Specialist Judith A. Resnik, Mission Specialist Ellison S. Onizuka, Mission Specialist Ronald E. McNair, Payload Specialist Gregory B. Jarvis, and Payload Specialist Sharon Christa McAuliffe;

Whereas Christa McAuliffe, a schoolteacher from Concord, New Hampshire, was on board as the first member in the Teacher in Space Project;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) selected Christa McAuliffe from a field of

11,000 applicants to be a part of the Challenger crew and teach lessons to schoolchildren from space;

Whereas the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives conducted oversight hearings on the Challenger disaster and released a report on October 29, 1986, on the causes of the accident; and

Whereas the House of Representatives continues to support NASA and its ongoing efforts to explore and educate the American public about space: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the 22nd anniversary of the space shuttle Challenger disaster;

(2) celebrates the courage and bravery of the crew of the Challenger, and Christa McAuliffe and her passion for encouraging America's children to pursue careers in science and mathematics;

(3) commits itself and the Nation to using the lessons learned in inquiries into the space shuttle Challenger accident to ensure that the space agency always operates on a strong and stable foundation; and

(4) recognizes the continued dedication of the United States to the goal of space exploration for the benefit of all mankind.

Attest:

Clerk.