

Mankind is led into the darkness beyond our world by the inspiration of discovery and the longing to understand. Our journey into space will go on."

Of these seven brave men and women that we lost, I want to pay special tribute to Dr. Laurel Clark, who spent time as a child in New Mexico, where her father, Robert Salton, still resides. In reading interviews that Laurel gave, both before and during her mission on *Columbia*, a portrait emerges of an intelligent, determined woman, who managed a successful career, while at the same time being a devoted daughter, wife and mother. She helped open the door further for more women interested in science and space exploration careers.

In closing, I want to share a observation that Laurel gave from space in describing what it was like to view a sunset from above the Earth. "There's a flash—the whole payload bay turns this rosy pink. It only lasts 15 seconds and then it's gone. It's very ethereal and extremely beautiful."

I believe that Laurel's comment helps all of us have a better sense of who Laurel was. I want to express my deep sympathy to all of Laurel's family and friends. Those who knew her personally will never forget her, and her legacy will live on.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following article, which appeared in Sunday's *Albuquerque Journal*, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

[From the *Albuquerque Journal*]

ALBUQUERQUE FATHER RECALLS "A FINE LADY"

(By Leanne Potts)

Robert Salton had gone into the back yard of his Albuquerque home at dawn Saturday to look for his oldest child in the western sky.

His daughter, Laurel Clark, was an astronaut aboard the space shuttle *Columbia*. It was her first mission, and her daddy had just heard on CNN that people in New Mexico should be able to see the shuttle's trail as it flew over the state en route to its landing in Florida.

"I saw one long contrail in the sky going from west to east," Salton said. "I'm pretty sure that was it. That was her."

Less than 20 minutes later Salton and his wife, Harriet, heard the news on television: NASA had lost contact with the shuttle.

"Then that TV reporter in Dallas had the footage that showed the breakup," Salton said. "And we knew what had happened."

The oldest of Salton's four children—the daughter who had made A's in school, gone to medical school on a full Navy scholarship and made the space program while she was five months pregnant—was dead.

"She was just a fine lady," Salton said. "I was proud of her accomplishments, of course, but she was a good person, too."

Behind him, on a table in his home in a middle-class neighborhood near University Boulevard and Indian School Road, were photos reminding the retired 69-year-old carpenter of the accomplishments of his golden child.

There was Clark and her brother, Jon Salton, an engineer at Sandia National Laboratories, grinning together in a training plane that produces weightlessness. Clark is floating upside down, wearing her blue astronaut jumpsuit; her eyes sparkle like someone who knows her dream is in reach.

There was Salton's grandson—Laurel's 8-year-old son, Iain Clark—holding a feather and a bone in some Southwestern canyon.

There was a color 8-by-10 of Laurel's official NASA photo, the one where her smile

shows her dimples, the one Americans have seen dozens of times since news broke that the space shuttle *Columbia* blew up 207,000 feet in the air over Texas.

On the photo, Laurel had written: "To a wonderful father—I wouldn't be where I am without your guidance, support and love."

The word love was underlined.

RINGING PHONES

By 1 p.m. Saturday, the Saltons had turned off their TV. They couldn't watch any more news reports about debris raining from the Texas sky.

Their phone rang nonstop. Family called. Friends called. Reporters called. Powerful people called.

"The governor called and left a message," Harriet Salton said. "We heard from that congressman from the southern part of the state, too."

The phone rang again. "It's Heather," Harriet called to her husband. Robert took the call, but was off the phone in about two minutes.

"Wrong Heather," he said. "I thought it was Heather Salton (his niece) but it was Heather Wilson. I wouldn't have picked up the phone for a congressman."

The phone rang a few minutes later; Harriet looked at the Caller ID. "It's Dan Rathner again," she said.

They let the answering machine take it.

VERY TOUGH LADY

Clark, 41, was born in Iowa. The Saltons moved a lot, and Clark lived here in Albuquerque two years in 1970s.

She went to the fifth grade at Hodgin Elementary around 1971 while Robert Salton worked on a doctorate in American Studies at the University of New Mexico. Clark's mother, Margory, was an RN.

The Saltons moved to New York but returned to Albuquerque a year or so later, where Clark attended Monroe Middle School for a year.

Her parents divorced, and Clark moved to Wisconsin with her mother. Clark went to high school in Racine, Wis., a city of 84,000 that, according to her official NASA biography, she considers to be her hometown.

She was an A-student at Horlick High. "The only B she ever made was in typing," Robert Salton said.

She got a Navy scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she got a bachelor's degree in zoology in 1983 and a doctorate in medicine in 1987.

Clark joined the Navy and was working as a flight surgeon, based in Pensacola, Fla., when she decided to try out for the space program. Clark didn't make the program the first tryout.

"Then she got pregnant, and I figured that was it for her being an astronaut," Robert Salton said.

But Clark tried out again in 1996 when she was five months pregnant with her son Iain. She got in.

"She is—she was—a very tough lady," Robert Salton said.

Clark lived in Houston with her husband, Jonathan Clark, and son, Iain. Her husband is also in the space program.

Clark's husband and son had gone to Florida to see the shuttle landing, as had Clark's sister, Lynne Salton of Kansas City, Mo. The rest of the family was watching on television, Salton said.

During the *Columbia*'s 16-day mission, Clark had been in contact with some of her siblings via e-mail.

"The kids have been forwarding me her e-mails this morning. She was real excited, talking about watching lightning storms over the Pacific."

Salton said he saw his daughter for the last time in December, when she came to Albuquerque for Christmas.

"She was pumped about the (shuttle) trip," Salton said. "She was so excited. It was something she had worked for for six or seven years."

The Saltons said Laurel was aware of the risks involved in space travel, but not worried about them. At least not enough to miss a chance to fly in the stars.

"She was doing what she loved to do," Harriet Salton said. "She fulfilled her dream. Not many of us get to do that."

HONORING ROBERT G. MONDAVI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert G. Mondavi on the occasion of his being distinguished as an Honorary Member of the Agricultural Leadership Alumni. The award will be bestowed upon Mr. Mondavi at the annual conference of this organization.

Selection for this distinction is "reserved for special individuals who have, over a period of time, demonstrated consistent commitment and uncommon excellence in the furtherance of education and leadership in California agriculture."

Robert was born in Virginia, Minnesota to parents who emigrated from the Marche region of Italy. He is a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in economics and business administration. Upon graduation, Robert joined his father at Sunnyhill Winery in St. Helena and later at Charles Krug, where he upgraded the technology of the family enterprise, determined to raise quality. Later Mr. Mondavi established the first post-Prohibition major winery built in the Napa Valley. Robert also pioneered many of the fine winemaking techniques in California, including cold fermentation, stainless steel tanks, and the use of French oak barrels.

Mr. Mondavi received the World Trade Club's "International Achievement Award" for being a leading pioneer in the exportation of Premium California wine and being among the first to have a publicly traded company. He has also been honored with the first-ever "California State Fair Lifetime Achievement Award," the Wine Spectator's first "Readers' Choice Award" as "The Person Who Has Done the Most to Enhance Wine's Image," and the "Business Leader of the Year" award from the Harvard Business School Association of Northern California. In 2002, Robert was honored by the California State Assembly as "the global emissary of American food and wine" for lifetime achievements on behalf of California wine, food, and arts.

Mr. Mondavi is recognized as the global emissary of American food and wine. His vision was to create wines in California that belong in the company of great wines of the world. Having successfully achieved this goal, his wisdom as founder and Chairman Emeritus of Robert Mondavi now guides his sons and daughter in their leadership of the Robert Mondavi family of wines.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert G. Mondavi as an Honorary Member of the Agricultural Leadership Alumni. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert Mondavi many years of continued success.