

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 51) expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, and for other purposes, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration pursuant to the following order:

Debate on the resolution shall be limited to 2 hours equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 51.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) each will control 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I begin by observing that Members of this House share a special reverence and appreciation for Americans who risk their lives in the service of freedom. So on their behalf, let me extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to all the people who have entrusted the United States with their loved ones aboard *Columbia*.

Let us also offer the same spirit of solace to the men and women of Israel.

We hope that, through faith, God's healing comfort will lift our friends with heavy hearts to the "place of broad rivers and streams" with their grief receding upon the far shores.

Space is an American mission. And our accomplishments in space have led to some of our proudest hours as a country. During wartime, it is even more important to pursue goals that are more capable of rallying all of us.

Americans will not be motivated by petty goals or timid objectives. Appeals of this sort fall on deaf ears. Only bold ideas and audacious goals seize

our attention in this country. So what will it take?

We need daring dreams that strain the bonds of conventional wisdom. We need to begin journeys that are capable of challenging innately American qualities of ingenuity and determination, curiosity and courage.

An American always seeks to climb the next hill, to cross the next river, and to reach the next valley. We are born with an insatiable hunger to look over the horizon. It is a quality that runs through the special clay from which our maker formed us, and it holds true for Americans wherever they are born, because the magic of our principles exerts a magnetic pull upon people who are destined to be Americans. They are drawn home to us, just as Colonel Ramon, a man of determined actions and courageous curiosity, was drawn to Texas to share life's dream with our six intrepid Americans.

We are special. The people of this country will reject shallow goals. We need a space program that aspires to meet our lofty expectation. Ronald Reagan liked to quote the poet Carl Sandburg who wrote, "The Republic is a dream. Nothing happens unless first a dream."

We know what we have done, but only in our dreams do we learn what we can do. Space exploration is destined to remain the highest expression of our national dreams.

President Theodore Roosevelt properly summed up the spirits that have driven so many of our fellow citizens to cross countless boundaries.

"Far better it is," said Roosevelt, "to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

For 4 decades, Americans have known that human space flight is the most dangerous and daring endeavor human beings have ever attempted. The seven men and women of *Columbia* risked their lives to dare bold dreams and advance the boundaries of human knowledge. This courage is the work of our creator.

As we lost sight of our heroes through flames in the forehead of the morning sky, we can take great solace in knowing that they are now beyond pain. All of them have now been safely returned to the folds of our master's cloak.

For comfort and for consolation, let us turn to the Psalmist: "The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the Earth he has given to man. It is not the dead who praise the Lord, those who go down to silence; it is we who extol the Lord, both now and for evermore. Praise the Lord."

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the distinguished majority leader in introducing the House Resolution honoring the crew of Space Shuttle *Columbia*. I wish to express my condolences to the distinguished majority leader and our colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON), in whose district the Johnson Space Center is domiciled; and to all of our colleagues from Texas, to them and to their constituents we offer our deepest, deepest sympathy.

The astronauts trained and lived in Houston, traveled 6 million miles away; and as President Bush said so eloquently yesterday, "We lost them so close to home."

Yesterday I had the privilege of joining many of my colleagues in traveling to Houston for a memorial service honoring the seven heroic astronauts who were lost on Saturday morning when the Space Shuttle *Columbia* exploded just minutes before its scheduled landing.

These brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might enhance our understanding of the universe. They have the eternal gratitude of an entire Nation and, indeed, the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge and pay my respects to Sean O'Keefe, the administrator of NASA, and the people who work at NASA, for their dedication, for their courage and to acknowledge the suffering they are going through having lost their friends.

The world mourns the deaths of Air Force Colonel Rick Husband, the shuttle's commander; Navy Commander Willie McCool, the mission's pilot; Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, the payload commander in charge of the science equipment; Dr. Kalpana Chawla, an aerospace engineer, an exceptional young woman; Navy doctors Captain David Brown and Commander Laurel Salton Clark; and Colonel Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli in space.

I want to extend my condolences to Prime Minister Sharon and the people of Israel on the loss that they and we have suffered in losing Colonel Ilan Ramon. We are all blessed to have had such outstanding men and women serving in our space program.

For more than 4 decades, the space program has been a bold expression of American optimism. Who can forget the burst of national pride when our former congressional colleague John Glenn first orbited the Earth in 1962, and again 7 years later when Neil Armstrong took that one small step for man, that one giant leap for mankind?

Perhaps that spirit was best expressed by the philosopher Socrates, who lived thousands of years before space travel began. He said, "Humanity must rise above the Earth, to the top of the atmosphere and beyond, for only then will we fully understand the world in which we live."