

NASA

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

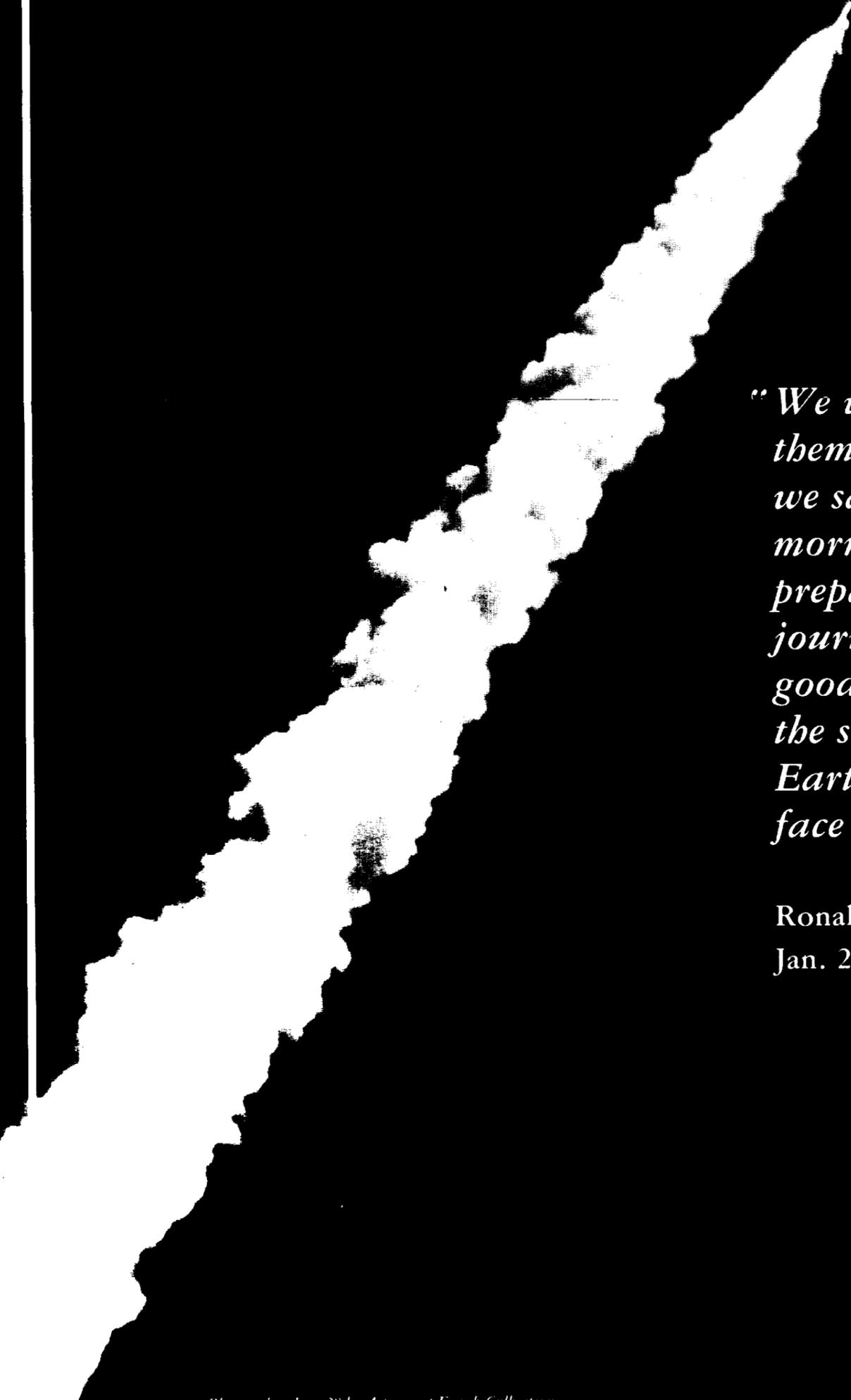
Space News Roundup

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration

In Memoriam



"We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye, and slipped the surly bonds of Earth to touch the face of God."

Ronald Reagan,
Jan. 28, 1986



Dick Scobee
Mission Commander



Mike Smith
Mission Pilot



Ron McNair
Mission Specialist



Elison S. Onizuka
Mission Specialist

President Reagan honors *Challenger* seven

We come together today to mourn the loss of seven brave Americans, to share the grief we all feel and, perhaps in that sharing, to find the strength to bear our sorrow and the courage to look for the seeds of hope.

Our Nation's loss is first a profound personal loss to the family, friends, and loved ones of our Shuttle astronauts. To those they have left behind — the mothers, the fathers, the husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and, yes, especially the children — all of America stands beside you in your time of sorrow.

What we say today is only an inadequate expression of what we carry in our hearts. Words pale in the shadow of grief; they seem insufficient even to measure the brave sacrifice of those you loved and we so admired. Their truest testimony will not be in the words we speak, but in the way they led their lives and in the way they lost those lives — with dedication, honor, and an unquenchable desire to explore this mysterious and beautiful universe.

The best we can do is remember our seven astronauts — our *Challenger* Seven — remember them as they lived, bringing life and love and joy to those who knew them and pride to a Nation.

They came from all parts of this vast country — from South Carolina to Washington State; Ohio to Mohawk, New York; Hawaii to North Carolina to Concord, New Hampshire. They were so very different, yet in their mission, their quest, they held so much in common.

We remember Dick Scobee, the commander who spoke the last words we heard from the Space Shuttle *Challenger*. He served as a fighter pilot in Vietnam earning many medals for bravery, and later as a test pilot of advanced aircraft

before joining the space program. Danger was a familiar companion to Commander Scobee.

We remember Michael Smith, who earned enough medals as a combat pilot to cover his chest, including the Navy Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals — and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, in gratitude from a Nation he fought to keep free.

We remember Judith Resnik, known as J.R. to her friends, always smiling, always eager to make a contribution, finding beauty in the music she played on her piano in her off-hours.

We remember Ellison Onizuka, who, as a child running barefoot through the coffee fields and macadamia groves of Hawaii, dreamed of someday traveling to the Moon. Being an Eagle Scout, he said, had helped him soar to the impressive achievements of his career.

We remember Ronald McNair, who said he learned perseverance in the cotton fields of South Carolina. His dream was to live aboard the Space Station, performing experiments and playing his saxophone in the weightlessness of space. Ron — we will miss your saxophone; and we will build your Space Station.

We remember Gregory Jarvis. On that ill-fated flight he was carrying with him a flag of his university in Buffalo, New York — a small token, he said, to the people who unlocked his future.

We remember Christa McAuliffe, who captured the imagination of the entire Nation, inspiring us with her pluck, her restless spirit of discovery; a teacher, not just to her students, but to an entire people, instilling us all with the excitement of this journey we ride into the future.

We will always remember them, these skilled professionals, scien-

tists and adventurers, these artists and teachers and family men and women, and we will cherish each of their stories — stories of triumph and bravery, stories of true American heroes.

On the day of the disaster, our Nation held a vigil by our television sets. In one cruel moment, our exhilaration turned to horror; we waited and watched and tried to make sense of what we had seen. That night, I listened to a call-in program on the radio: people of every age spoke of their sadness and the pride they felt in "our astronauts." Across America, we are reaching out, holding hands, finding comfort in one another.

The sacrifice of your loved ones has stirred the soul of our Nation and, through the pain, our hearts have been opened to a profound truth — the future is not free, the story of all human progress is one of a struggle against all odds. We learned again that this America, which Abraham Lincoln called the last best hope of mankind on Earth, was built on heroism and noble sacrifice. It was built by men and women like our seven star voyagers, who answered a call beyond duty, who gave more than was expected or required, and who gave it with little thought to worldly reward.

We think back to the pioneers of an earlier century, the sturdy souls who took their families and their belongings and set out into the frontier of the American West. Often, they met with terrible hardship. Along the Oregon Trail you can still see the grave markers of those who fell on the way. But grief only steeled them to the journey ahead.

Today, the frontier is space and the boundaries of human knowledge. Sometimes, when we reach for the stars, we fall short. But we must pick ourselves up again and

press on despite the pain. Our Nation is indeed fortunate that we can still draw on immense reservoirs of courage, character, and fortitude — that we are still blessed with heroes like those of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*.

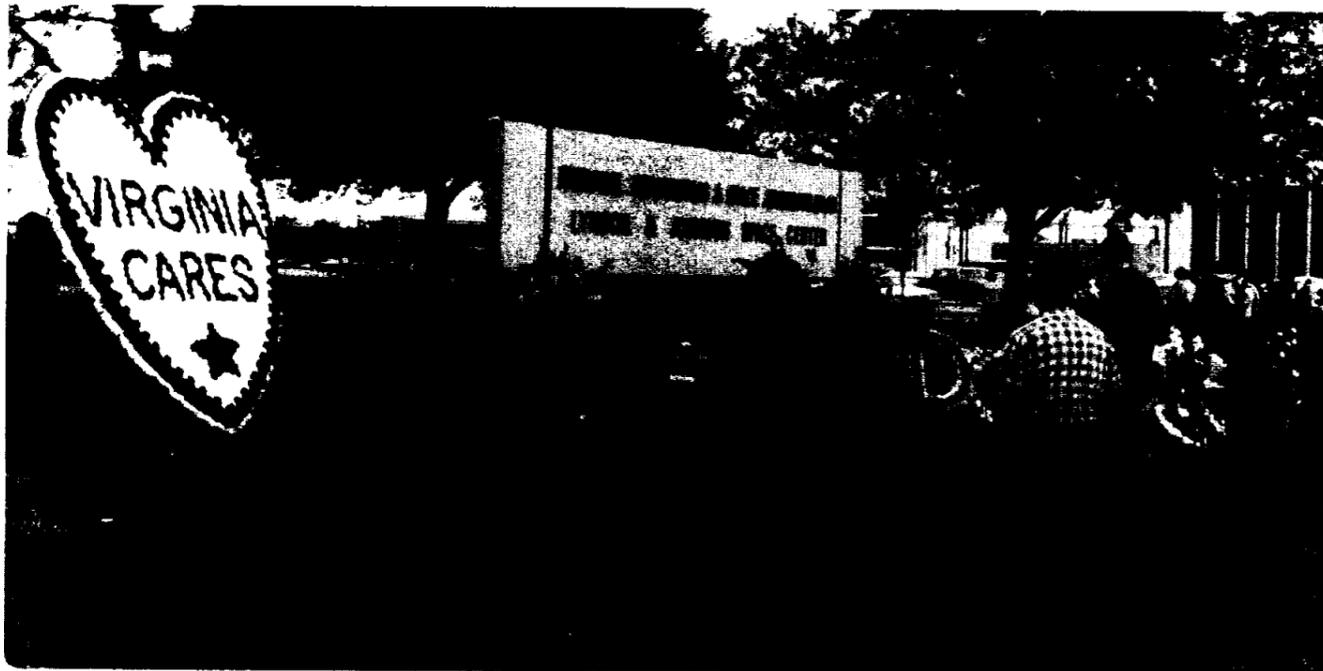
Dick Scobee knew that every launching of a Space Shuttle is a technological miracle. And he said, if something ever does go wrong, I hope that doesn't mean the end to the Space Shuttle program. Every family member I talked to asked specifically that we continue the program, that that is what their departed loved one would want above all else. We will not disappoint them.

Today, we promise Dick Scobee and his crew that their dream lives on; that the future they worked so hard to build will become reality. The dedicated men and women of NASA have lost seven members of their family. Still, they too, must forge ahead, with a space program that is effective, safe, and efficient, but bold and committed.

Man will continue his conquest of space. To reach out for new goals and ever greater achievements — that is the way we shall commemorate our seven *Challenger* heroes.

Dick, Mike, Judy, El, Ron, Greg, and Christa — your families and your country mourn your passing. We bid you goodbye, but we will never forget you. For those who knew you well and loved you, the pain will be deep and enduring. A Nation, too, will long feel the loss of her seven sons and daughters, her seven good friends. We can find consolation only in faith, for we know in our hearts that you who flew so high and so proud now make your home beyond the stars, safe in God's promise of eternal life.

May God bless you all and give you comfort in this difficult time.





Judy Resnik
Mission Specialist



Greg Jarvis
Payload Specialist



Christa McAuliffe
Teacher Observer

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cialist

The quest will continue, Director says

As professionals, we must carry on.

As a Center, we have absorbed a devastating blow, but we are recovering.

As an Agency, we have benefited from the love and good will of the entire nation. That national outpouring has sustained us as individuals and as members of the NASA family. It was indeed as the late Jack Swigert said after Apollo 13: "If only for a brief moment all the people in the world were united."

Throughout this tragedy, the people of the Johnson Space Center

have remained steadfast and proud. Despite a shattering personal and professional loss, the quest has continued.

We are in the business of exploration. Our friends lost their lives in this quest. So it is entirely fitting that despite moments of great personal sorrow, despite the many pressures that washed over us in the aftermath, we have found time to remember, we have found time to grieve and we have found time to carry on the quest for answers.

We are resolved, as individuals, as a Center, as an Agency and as a

nation, to understand how and why this tragedy took place. No member of the JSC family can doubt for a moment that the program must continue. All of us know instinctively that the *Challenger* Seven would want it that way. The Nation knows too, and Shuttles will fly again.

Many of you attended the memorial service to the crew of *Challenger*. On that day, we gathered as a family to remember them, to acknowledge our loss, to honor our dead. The central mall area, the heart of the JSC campus, was in many ways sanctified during

that ceremony. It was there that we laid the memories of our comrades to rest.

During the coming months and years, after the pain of these last days has subsided, let us remember how and why we gathered.

Let us remember Dick and Mike, Judy and Ron, El, Greg and Christa as they would wish it: with a smile, with an unshakable faith in our efforts, and with a resolve to carry on our reach for the stars.

Jesse W. Moore
Director, Johnson Space Center

Administrator expresses NASA's pride, gratitude

Mr. President, Mrs. Reagan, families of the *Challenger* crew, other members of the NASA family, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you for coming here today to honor seven brave Americans—the crew of the Spaceship *Challenger*.

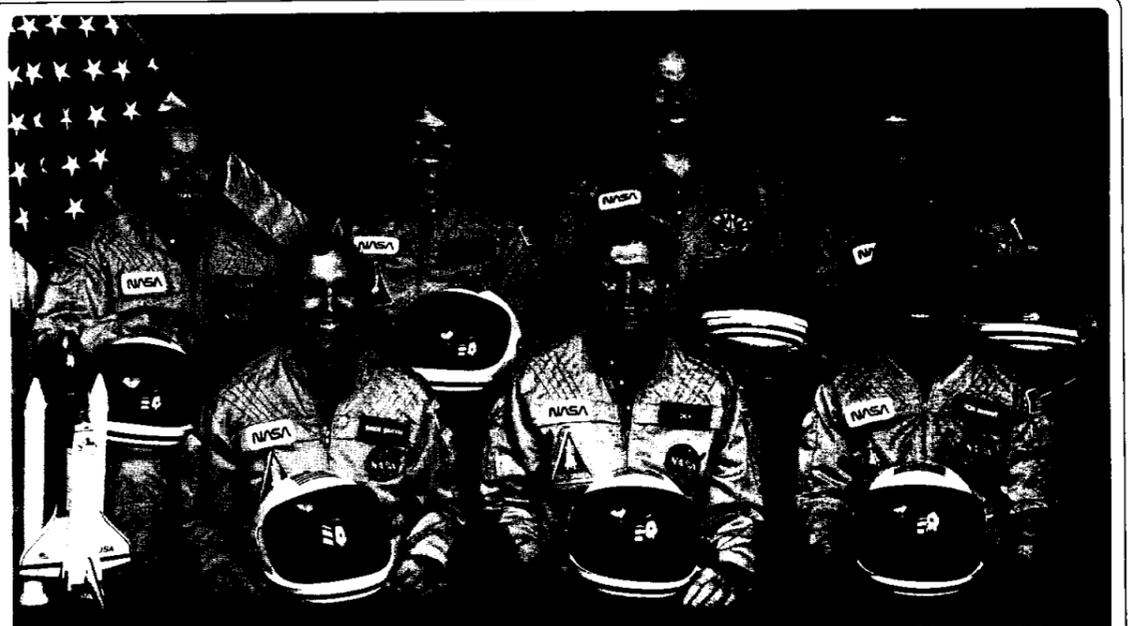
Dick Scobee, Mike Smith, Judy Resnik, Ron McNair, El Onizuka, Greg Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe were explorers who blazed the trail for the rest of us. Their courage and dedication represents all that's best in each of us and in America.

The *Challenger* crew took a bit of us all aloft on Tuesday. Their dreams of discovery are our dreams, and the men and women of that flight will always live in our thoughts and in our hearts.

I pray that families and friends will remember our pride and our gratitude and find some refuge in its warmth.

God bless them all.

William R. Graham
Acting Administrator



Keep dream alive, families urge

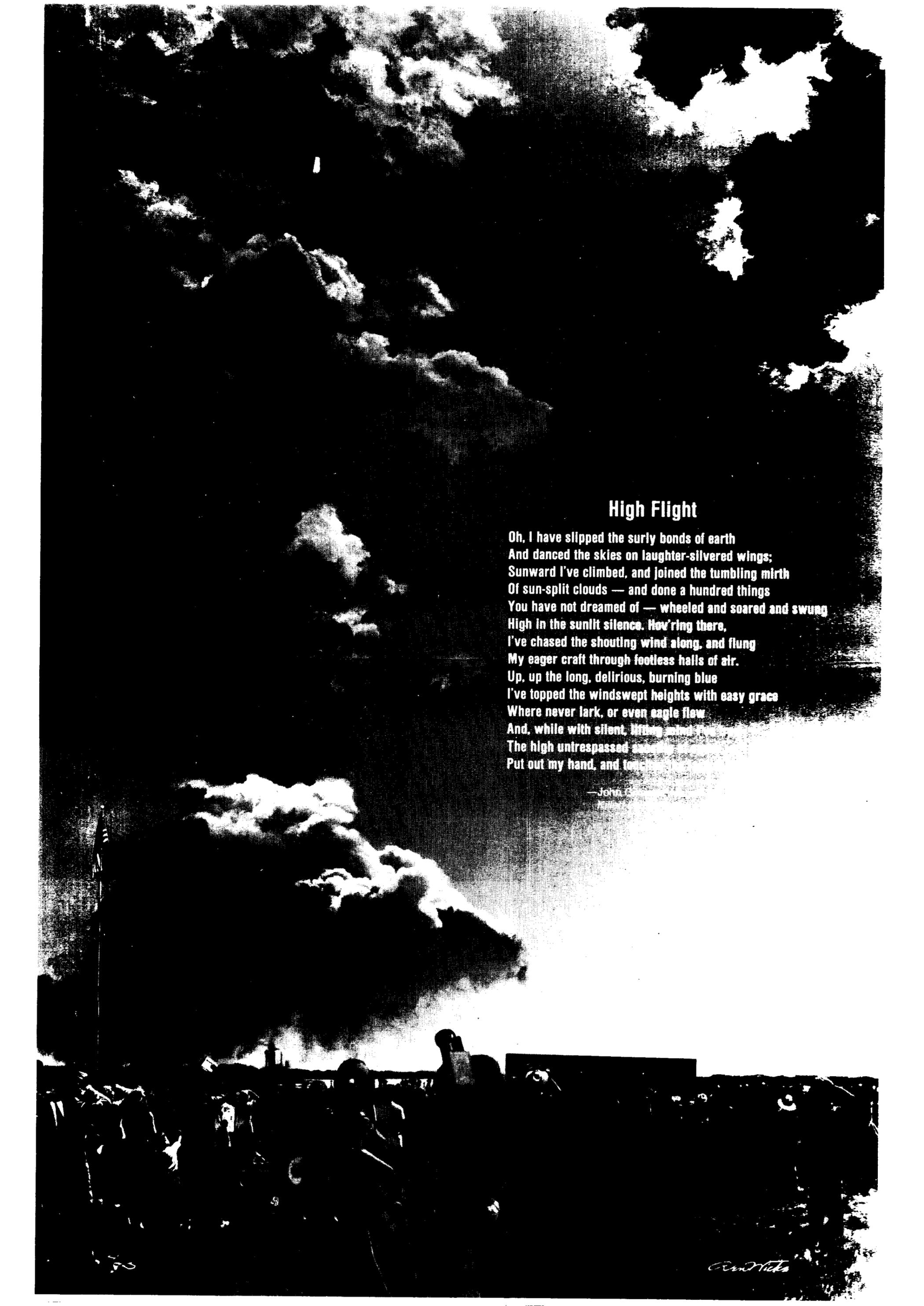
The 51-L Crew families want to thank the people of our country and all the countries of the world for their thoughts, their feelings and words of encouragement.

Space flight serves as an outlet for our human need to learn and expand. What's out there will

make our lives better on Earth and help satisfy mankind's natural curiosity to explore and push the borders of the 'known universe.'

So that their lives were not lost in vain, we *must* rededicate ourselves to the exploration of space and to keep *the dream alive*.





High Flight

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew
And, while with silent, lifting mind I soar
The high untrespassed frontier, I find
Put out my hand, and touch the hand of God

— John G. C. [unclear]

Carroll