

# Roundup

LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER



February 2004  
Houston, Texas  
Volume 43  
Number 2



jsc2003e66230 Photo courtesy of Astronaut Scott Parazynski

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## A higher place

This photograph was placed on Columbia Point, a 13,980-foot mountain peak in Colorado's Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which was named for the Space Shuttle and her crew.

From the desk of Lt. Gen. Jefferson D. Howell Jr.

# Director's Message



## A Tribute

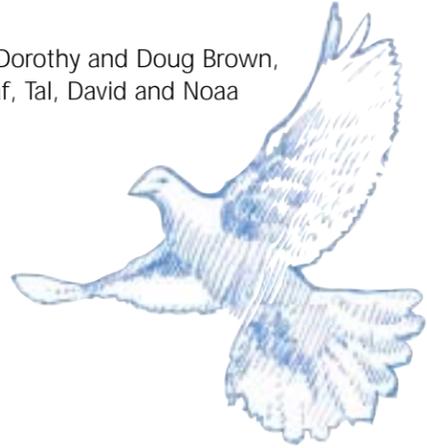
DURING THIS TIME OF REMEMBRANCE I would like to pay tribute to a group of wonderful individuals I have gotten to know over the past year. They are the immediate families of the *Columbia* crew. Not only have they suffered incredible personal tragedy, grief and loss, they have also been thrust into the spotlight of public scrutiny and celebrity, an additional burden that was not their bidding or desire.

From the day of the accident through the present time, all of them, in their own individual styles, have set an example of courage, dignity and spiritual strength that is awe inspiring. On several occasions I have personally witnessed them giving encouragement and support to others in grief although it is they who have suffered the greatest loss. They are indeed very, very special people whom I feel honored to know.

So, to Evelyn, Matthew and Laura Husband, to Lani, Sean, Christopher and Cameron McCool, to Paul, Dorothy and Doug Brown, to Jean-Pierre Harrison, to Sandy, Sydney and Kaycee Anderson, to Jon and Iain Clark, and to Rona, Asaf, Tal, David and Noaa Ramon, I say thank you for who you are and what you do.

I and the entire JSC Team salute you.

Beak sends...



APPEARING THIS MONTH IN OUR

## Guest Space

**Kent Rominger**

Chief of the Astronaut Office



On February 1, 2003, the world lost seven heroes – we lost seven family members. Coping with our tragic loss has been very difficult, but I think that the STS-107 crewmembers would be very proud of NASA's commitment to continued human spaceflight and to the support given to their families.

The legacy of the STS-107 crew will never be forgotten. The crewmembers worked together as a team to perform flawlessly. Individually, they were not concerned with their own accomplishments, even though each one was extremely capable and talented. They didn't look for

fame or to be in the limelight. Each one was committed to being a member of the most capable seven-person team possible.

This past year I have been extremely impressed by the STS-107 families. Their strength, courage and leadership have been a great inspiration to all. Their positive attitude toward continued human spaceflight truly honors their loved ones. I can only imagine just how proud the STS-107 crew would be of their families.

The STS-107 crew also would be comforted by the way NASA is providing care and support for their loved ones. NASA's commitment to the crewmembers' families begins at the top with our Administrator and continues down through the astronauts who personally support each of the STS-107 families. I must take this opportunity to thank these dedicated astronauts for the caring and compassionate support that they have provided to the STS-107 families through this year. The families of these dedicated astronauts should also be recognized for their understanding and unselfish support during these challenging times.

It has been said that we learn more from our failures than from our successes. Clearly, NASA is learning from the *Columbia* tragedy. The Shuttle, International Space Station and other advanced programs made significant accomplishments in pursuit of human spaceflight this past year. The astronaut corps is not only dedicated to supporting these programs, but is honored to work with the talented individuals in these programs

The international cooperation in support of the Space Station demonstrates the robustness of global teamwork. The Space Station program and the entire human spaceflight community should be commended for maintaining a continued human presence in space in spite of the temporary Space Shuttle grounding.

The folks in the Shuttle Program are working extremely hard to address the problems that surfaced as a result of the *Columbia* accident. They are methodically addressing difficult challenges and are dedicated to safely returning the Space Shuttle to flight. I know the STS-107 crew would be proud of these folks and their efforts.

At this moment, a plaque honoring the crew and bearing their mission patch is now on Mars, carried there by the Spirit lander. We see the STS-107 logo in pictures being beamed down to Earth. It's a marvelous tribute to the crew's own spirit of exploration and demonstrates how deeply each member of the NASA family cares, and remembers, the dedication of these amazing human beings.

The very spirit, teamwork and commitment demonstrated by the STS-107 crew are what I have witnessed in the NASA team. I feel we will have a bright and rewarding future ahead of us as we strive to continue the STS-107 legacy.

## Columbia crew remembered with plaque on Mars Spirit Rover

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe recently announced plans to name the landing site of the Mars Spirit Rover in honor of the astronauts who died in the tragic accident of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in February 2003. The area in the vast flatland of the Gusev Crater where Spirit landed in early January will be called the Columbia Memorial Station.

Since its historic landing, Spirit has been sending extraordinary images of its new surroundings on the red planet. Among them is an image of a memorial plaque placed on the spacecraft to *Columbia*'s astronauts and the STS-107 mission.

The plaque is mounted on the back of Spirit's high-gain antenna, a disc-shaped tool used for communicating directly with Earth. The plaque is aluminum and approximately six inches in diameter. The memorial plaque was attached March 28, 2003, at the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Chris Voorhees and Peter Illsley, Mars Exploration Rover engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., designed the plaque.

"During this time of great joy for NASA, the Mars Exploration Rover team and the entire NASA family paused to remember our lost colleagues from the *Columbia* mission. To venture into space, into the unknown, is a calling heard by the bravest, most dedicated individuals," O'Keefe said. "As team members gazed at Mars through Spirit's eyes, the *Columbia* memorial appeared in images returned to Earth, a fitting tribute to their own spirit and dedication. Spirit carries the dream of exploration the brave astronauts of *Columbia* held in their hearts."



A plaque honoring the fallen heroes of *Columbia* is mounted on the back of Spirit's high-gain antenna.

Jsc2004e00070 Photo Credit: NASA/JPL

# HOW THE STS-107 CREW INSPIRED US

■ The STS-107 crew was a crew that was dedicated to all the goals of human spaceflight and upheld all that NASA stood for. Rick Husband was a particular inspiration to me with his low-key approach to everything he did. One did not have to be around Rick very long to realize that the two most important things to him were his God and his family (in that order). I remember his smile and his ability to treat everyone around him with the utmost of respect.

*Lonnie Moffitt, Space Shuttle Program Integration, Flight Director Office*

■ How did the crew of *Columbia* inspire me? They inspired me with their courage, devotion to duty, and their love of the unknown. They knew there was great danger when they began training for the 107 mission. But that didn't stop them. Their inner drive gave them the devotion to duty they needed to stay the course and do what they felt their duties demanded. And finally, their burning need to explore the unknown (despite its hidden dangers) gave me pause to reflect on just how special these humans were. They give us all a higher standard to strive for.

*Jack Baston, Internet Apps Developer, USA Information Engineering, Mission Operations Directorate*

■ Shortly before STS-107 launched, I met David Brown in the MCC. My youngest son, Stephen, was learning to ride a unicycle at the time and becoming discouraged. Dave was an accomplished unicyclist and I asked him for any encouraging words to pass along. He said that you had to be willing to fall down a lot in order to master it. This helped Stephen realize that falling down did not mean he was a failure, just that he needed to keep trying. He still falls down sometimes, but remembers Dave's advice and continues working toward mastering it.

*Bill Foster, Mission Control Center, Ascent/Entry Ground Control Officer, Mission Operations Directorate*

■ In life and death, the *Columbia* crew inspired me to excellence – to not take my role in Robotics, the space program, the world, and life lightly. They inspired me to press on with my dreams through adversity and despair. We continuously make decisions that lead us down different paths and the *Columbia* crew inspired me to not only do the best that I can, but to strengthen my weaknesses, so I can make my best better. In memory of Rick Husband, Willie McCool, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon, who all inspired me!

*Chris M. Weber, Robotics Flight Controller, Mission Operations Directorate*

■ I have been intrigued by human space exploration as far back as I can recall. I first realized the risk involved in space travel when I was 9 and the *Challenger* exploded. To my mother's dismay, it only solidified my desire to be a part of it. Just to know that there were other people out there so determined to explore and research outside of our world that they would risk their lives made me realize: this is what I want to do! The dedication of the crew of *Columbia* and all crews inspires me.

*Carly Robrig, Lockheed Martin - SEAT, IP Engineering Integration and Verification*

■ I was the original Flight Data File Lead for this wonderful crew before I became ill for about three months. They knew that I had been replaced as the lead and they called often to check up on me. These were very determined crewmembers who knew what was expected of them and yet they did not forget the people behind the scenes. They were great as a crew, and as individuals they were very caring. They gave me the will and determination not to give up during my illness and to recuperate and go forth.

*Dee Lopez, Flight Data Flight-Flight Lead*

*I was fortunate to work with and become friends with the STS-107 Columbia crew.*

*They all shared so many of the same special qualities such as intelligence, bravery, a strong love of family, professional dedication, kindness towards others, a deep desire for knowledge (especially technologies and sciences) and a joyful, fun-loving, adventuresome spirit.*

*I think often about the special inspiration each one has given me, and exactly how they touched my life.*

*Laurel said in orbit, "Life is a magical thing." She inspired me for her love of every living thing. She has taught me how precious life is. Because of her, I never take anything for granted.*

*Willie's little surprise gifts and appreciation notes that he would leave on my desk taught me about consideration and how to bring happiness to someone's soul.*

*Dave taught me to strive to excel in creativity, which brings constant challenges for improvement to all creative people.*

*Mike was so religious and dedicated, and has my complete admiration as a role model.*

*Ilan showed me that celebrities and heroes can be humble people. I never knew until he was gone that he was considered a national hero in Israel.*

*KC loved reading. After seeing all of the many books that were in her home, I am inspired to continue reading and learning.*

*Rick's strong faith that he had in God will continue to strengthen my belief. His leadership inspires me every day.*

*I learned something special from each one of them that I'll carry the rest of my life. I am truly blessed to have known them all.*

Darla Racz, STS-107 Training Manager



Darla Racz, STS-107 Training Manager, poses with the crew. A mission's Training Manager and Crew Secretary are the only people to have official portraits taken with a crew.

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# HOW THE STS-107 CREW INSPIRED US *(continued)*

■ What lingers with me, and inspires me, are the final efforts of Commander Rick Husband to manually control the re-entry trajectory of *Columbia* once he recognized the necessity for intervention. His courage and desire to make things right are profound.

*Richard D. Järvinen, Code NX*

■ I saw seven dedicated, extraordinary people working and preparing for a very important mission full of scientific experiments that would open doors to questions of science for the world to use. These seven show how all astronauts dedicate their lives unselfishly to the challenges that they have dreamed of and love. Their faces will always be etched in our memories, but the spirit of these diverse individuals will always motivate me to strive for excellence with humility, grace, faith and great humor.

*Phillip Good, Science Engineering Analysis Testing, Metabolic Lab*

■ I did not personally know all the members of STS-107, but the two that I knew pretty well were an inspiration to everyone they met. Willie and Rick were two of the most wonderful men I have had the pleasure of meeting; they were kind, honest and loyal. They loved their families and loved to talk about them; they personified the title “gentleman”: “A man whose conduct conforms to a high standard of propriety or correct behavior.”

*Nancy Capra, Secretary, Orbital Space Plane Program Office*

■ I had the honor and privilege of working with the individual astronauts starting following their Astronaut Candidate training all the way through STS-107 – including when they were assigned on other crews – and as the STS-107 crew, since they were actually assigned as that crew. They exuded teamwork, leadership, honesty, integrity, pride, honor, and loyalty every day. To know them at work, and personally, was a constant reminder about values – family values and commitment to excellence in every way. “They were my north, my south, my east, my west. My working week, my Sunday best.”

*Linda Kennedy, STS-107 Postflight Appearance Program Lead, Astronaut Appearances Office*

■ I checked in debris recovered by the field crews in Ft. Worth. One of the last items found was an unusual laminated business card found around Azle, Texas. On the front was a Hindu deity figure and on the back was both Indian and English writing which indicated a car rental business. Whether it belonged to her or not, I couldn't help but think of Kalpana Chawla, of both the local pride she inspired in her home country and of the great global endeavor she participated in, helping to bring all of us on this tiny planet closer together.

*John Clack, Projects Lead, Management Services Office*

■ I helped with a Make-a-Wish Foundation tour for a boy who wished to be an astronaut. As we toured the crew equipment facilities, Laurel was inside packing her items for 107. When someone told her we were outside, she made time to come out to meet the boy, have her picture taken with him, and promised to not only send him a photo with her autograph, but of the entire crew. She got his address from me and did as she had promised. His mother called me to say how cherished all of those photos are to him.

*Peter W. Pruyn, Instructor, Shuttle Control/Propulsion*

■ The *Columbia* crew represented a universal, diverse and talented group of individuals committed to working together to bring good to humanity and the world. They leave us an example that regardless of color, race, religion and ideology, people can work together and make a positive and long-lasting contribution in the world.

*Juan Manuel Traslavina, Assurance Integration Engineer, SAIC*

■ Ilan was my schoolmate in graduate school. He was in a design group with me. He stirred in me an increased hunger for knowledge. His gentle kindness contributed to my success in attaining a Master's degree. His deepest impact on me occurred the first time I saw Ilan floating in space, as it was a true moment of inspirational realization. It went beyond the beauty of seeing him touch the star he had dreamed of in school. It opened my eyes and heart to what could be.

*Laurie Carrillo, Engineer, Space and Life Sciences*

■ The STS-107 crew left an amazing legacy. What I noticed most was their spirit and lust for life. In every photo I have seen, it is quite obvious that they not only loved everything they did, but they enjoyed and cherished the friendship of each other. The smiles on their faces speak volumes. This past year, I have gained a special appreciation for all things – especially people – that are special in my life. Living through an experience like this makes you realize that every day is special. Laurel Clark's quote says it all: “Life is a magical thing.”

*Donna Baumer, Graphics Supervisor, IMPASS contract*



William McCool, David Brown and Rick Husband take a break during training.

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Laurel Clark, Rick Husband and Kalpana Chawla are pictured prior to their sleep shift in bunk beds on the middeck of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

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■ The last crew of *Columbia*, like most crews, inspired me to do my best because they were counting on me. They had a job to do and so did I – they were very aware of the importance of the work of the people in the day-to-day operation of the space program and were always giving kudos and encouraging words. They knew that while their expertise was very important to the mission, they were ultimately putting their lives in our hands and trusted us to do our jobs right. I hope that we deserve the trust of the next crew.

*Jean Alexander, CEE Equipment Specialist*

■ The crew of *Columbia* inspired me by being willing to risk their lives for what they believed in. Despite many years of successful Shuttle launches, they were well aware of the dangers and risks involved. They were committed to answering the call of NASA to push the boundaries of science and increase our knowledge of human spaceflight. The positive public statements following the disaster by their families and friends have shown us that the crew of the *Columbia* were strong leaders within their families and their communities, using the abilities they had been given to serve those around them.

*David B. Cook, Senior Engineer, ISS Hardware/Software Integration*

■ I am inspired by the following qualities of the crew of *Columbia* (William McCool and Kalpana Chawla): art of living towards science, smiling faces, dedication, enthusiasm, humor, positive attitude, innovative adaptation to changes in collection of specimens, patience, precision and accuracy of data recording.

*Vinodbala P. Shah, Scientist, Pharmacotherapeutics Lab*

■ As brave souls that I could wish to have been, they became part of the universe we seek to know.

*Ken Lassmann, Manager, JSC SBIR/STTR & CDDF Programs*