

■ The loss of *Columbia* only brought me hurt for a while. Time is replacing that pain with awe and wonder at the courage and heart of true explorers willing to risk their earthly lives for the joy of discovering and enlarging the limit of humanity's knowledge. I will more passionately pursue the explorations and endeavors important to me the risky but soul-stirring adventures I've dreamt about for a long time. I am, as always, committed to space exploration as an adventure that benefits our planet and humanity in both a physical and spiritual sense. True joy is worth the risk.

Karen Borski, Data Archivist/Experiment Support Scientist, Space and Life Sciences Directorate

■ As a quality engineer for the NASA Space Shuttle Program, I have true regard for the crew of *Columbia*. Their vision, strength of purpose and sheer determination to conduct their mission has inspired me to continue my work. Even though many critics have derided the space programs for the risks involved, I fully understand that risks are necessary for endeavors as valuable as our missions to space. The fruits of space exploration shall continue to enrich and bring meaning to the lives of all Earth's inhabitants. We must continue the process for which our noble astronauts gave their lives.

Joyce Osterhus, Sr. Quality Engineer, West Coast S&MA Office, SAIC

■ They were just so gracious, inquisitive and nice to work with. I had helped Kalpana design her first mission patch. She was a first-time astronaut, and yet she was the most polite, most patient, most like a kid with a new toy of anyone with whom I have had the pleasure to work. She asked about the design process, not wanting to "cause any trouble," willing to come to Graphics to talk about it. She had the positive attitude to which I'd most like to aspire – a genuine explorer of new things, no matter what the subject. I'll miss that.

David Russell, Senior Graphic Design Specialist IV, IMPASS contract

■ After the STS-107 tragedy, I went to Toronto to talk to kids about NASA. When I looked into the audience, I saw a diversity of faces all interested in space. The STS-107 crew mirrored that same diversity. A friend of mine who lives in Toronto reminds me of Kalpana Chawla with the mixture of Eastern and Western culture that comes when one emigrates from India. The STS-107 crew looked like America. They worked so well together in space in spite of, or because of, their diversity. I hope that we can continue that legacy here on the ground.

Stacey E. Morrison, Deputy CIO, Space and Life Sciences Directorate

■ The *Columbia* crew should serve as an inspiration to every person who has ever looked to the heavens and dreamed of what might be. Dreamers seem to be in short supply these days. Each crewmember will be remembered as one who dared to act on their dreams. "Great it is to dream the dream / When you stand in youth by the starry stream / But a greater thing is to fight life through / And to say in the end that the dream is true." –John Osteen

Ernest Marsh, Senior Engineer, Software Safety

■ It's human nature that good things will arise from tragedies that affect our lives. The last few years, there have been a lot of them, whether personal or national. Although I'm not an engineer or an astronaut, I have wondered "Did I do a good job for STS-107? Could I have done something better? Did I serve them well?" I've taken time to rededicate myself to NASA's mission of space travel and that I'm a part of our country's pride. This has led me to push my team toward perfection to ensure that we're serving the astronauts who have chosen this perilous path.

Gyla Whitlow, Special Event Coordinator, IMPASS contract

The Columbia crew inspired me with their positive attitude and unconditional love and respect for every person who crossed their paths. These seven accomplished souls took the time to embrace me and everyone else who supported their mission, and treated us as a part of their crew. They showered me with praise and always offered positive guidance. This crew insisted that I wasn't "just their secretary," but an integral part of the team, which is how they treated all who contributed to their efforts towards this mission.

A few of my thoughts on each individual crewmember:

Rick's faith was present in his everyday life. It was easy to understand why he was chosen as Commander for this very demanding 16-day mission. He sang in his church choir and invited me to come to special services. To see and hear him sing his solo with a special grace and love, backed by this large choir, never failed to bring tears to my eyes.

Willie's charm and thoughtfulness not only touched those he knew but also reached out to organizations that make a difference throughout the world. He brought items into space for the U.N.'s World Food Program, Doctors Without Borders, and Interplast – all organizations that transcend borders to help the less fortunate. His wife and sons were his heaven here on Earth.

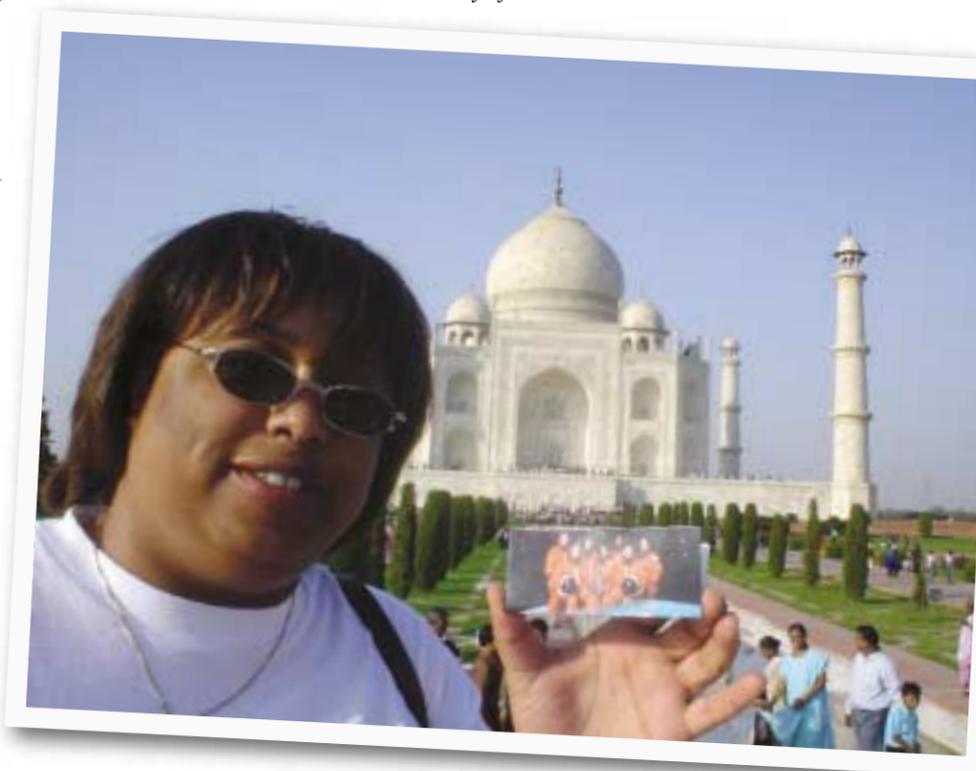
Dave enjoyed sharing many adventures and hobbies, from his past days as a gymnast and circus performer, to the present (last year) when he called me with a live second-by-second account of the crew's approach to the launch pad during the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test. He was detailed and full of enthusiasm. I can still feel the wave of excitement and hear him say over the cell phone, "There she is. Oh Roz, she is beautiful!" referring to the Columbia as she stood on Launch Pad B.

Michael was confident and intellectual – a deep thinker. Humble, quiet and professional, he had the most incredible smile. He was a wonderful husband and father. He took pride in his African-American heritage with a strong affection and appreciation for the forefathers who led the way like the Buffalo Soldiers and the Tuskegee Airmen.

Kalpana had a quest for knowledge. She was always studying and preparing to soar over and above what was required, with special attention to detail. Even with her demanding schedule and time constraints, she would stop what she was doing to lend a hand or guide me in the right direction. She had special love for birds and nature. Children adored her and she even made it a point to get to know my children, Jacques and Kristina.

Laurel glowed from deep inside with honest and nurturing love. Her greatest passion was her son Iain and her husband Jon. She was observant, caring and at peace. She had a wealth of information – a natural instructor, she was always willing to share her knowledge. Always thoughtful, while in space, she made a special effort to say 'thank you' from her entire family with an e-mail and flowers delivered to my home.

Ilan was one of the nicest men you could ever meet. Very patient and capable, he would show me different cultural items from Israel, carefully explaining the details and its history. He made it a point to compliment me for my ability to bridge time zones while working with the Israeli Embassy and various Israeli government agencies. Ilan was already a hero who stood up for his beliefs to protect his beloved country of Israel.



Since their passing, I continue to feel an extension of their kindness through their colleagues, friends and especially their families. When one has been graced with the privilege of being in the presence of such an exceptional group, I am inspired to pass onto others all that they have shared with me: unconditional love and respect, and never taking one moment, one person or the smallest kind gesture for granted.

Rosalind Hobgood,
STS-107 Crew Secretary

Rosalind Hobgood, STS-107 Crew Secretary, went to India in November with some of the crew's family members. They were invited by Astronaut Kalpana Chawla's husband J.P. Harrison to distribute copies of CDs highlighting Chawla's career at NASA. The group of 10 arrived in Delhi and then departed to their assigned cities to make presentations at universities, planetariums and schools. Hobgood's group, which visited Bombay, included Rona Ramon and Lani and Cameron McCool.

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



Several of the crewmembers pose for a photo in the SPACEHAB Research Double Module aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. Clockwise from the bottom are Astronauts David M. Brown, Michael P. Anderson, Kalpana Chawla and Ilan Ramon.

s107e05858

■ The most inspiring aspect about *Columbia's* crew was purely its international diversity, since it was somewhat microcosmic of Earth itself. This multicultural medley of nationalities, faiths and heritages voyaging together inside a rocket ship around our home planet in peaceful exploration sends a strong positive message to peoples of all backgrounds: true cooperation for the good of this precious globe is entirely possible in our existence. As a Jewish man, I was particularly touched by the flight of Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon, and the cache of historical and modern Judaica he carried as symbols of peace for everyone.

Roger H. Weiss, Technical Integration Specialist, SAIC

■ I continue to be moved at the thought of flight STS-107 and of the remarkable crew of *Columbia*: Flight Engineer and Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, Pilot William McCool, Mission Specialist Laurel Clark, Commander Rick Husband, Payload Commander and Mission Specialist Michael Anderson, Mission Specialist David Brown, Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon, as they shall always remain in our hearts.

M. Kathleen Keith, Travel/Training Coordinator, Shuttle Safety and Mission Assurance Department

■ I am inspired by the entire NASA Astronaut Corp that dedicate their careers and lives to a search for ways to improve our lives on Earth and to help find answers to questions about our origin and existence. I am particularly inspired by the memory of the seven crewmembers of *Columbia* who made the ultimate sacrifice for that cause, and I sincerely hope that their sacrifice is not in vain, and that the lessons learned will strengthen our (NASA's) resolve to achieve greater heights.

H. L. Stewart, Engineer/Consultant

■ The crew of *Columbia* were men and women of faith. Each one of them was highly educated and explorers in their own ways but they never failed to seek divine power. I was extremely inspired with the humility of Commander Husband. They exemplified oneness and respect for each others' as a team. I feel that one's profession should be so fulfilling to you that the obstacles become secondary to the rewards. This was revealed by the crew of the *Columbia*. Their examples of being "strong and courageous" will ever live in the hearts of the NASA family.

Julia A. Belton, Senior Mechanical Technician, S.A.I.C.

■ Humanity yearns to reach the stars, the heavens, and *Columbia's* crew touched the stars while gazing upon our blue seas and mountain majesties. We honor the bravery of those who've journeyed into space, while so much is required to continue on and explore. As a small comet in the sky, friends and families were left behind. Knowledge learned is a gift to mankind, and like the discoveries and sacrifices of our forefathers, these accomplishments have a price. We have learned from their sacrifices, and they continue to inspire us as we continue to reach for high places.

David Hower, Hamilton Sundstrand Mtg. Services, LSS Engineering and Reliability

■ Rick Husband always remembered your name, and always wanted to know how you and your family were doing. I remember Rick giving his son Matthew piggyback rides at school basketball games. Rick's family was number one, not by what he said but by his actions. Rick inspired to me to remember that no matter who you are, remember those that you work with, or that may work for you, and take an interest in their lives and their work. I hope that some of Rick's qualities rubbed off on me after working with and being a school parent with him.

Alan Currie, Computer Engineer

■ I never had the opportunity to work with or know personally any member of the STS-107 crew. However, I had the privilege to see Rick Husband being interviewed by his pastor on television about one week before the launch of STS-107. During the interview, Rick spoke about how he came to faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and all that the Lord has done in his life. I am always glad to hear the testimony from a fellow believer. However, hearing Rick's testimony was a special blessing to me being that Rick is member of the NASA family.

Michael Cooke, Acting Branch Chief, EV2

■ Since STS-107 was a research-dedicated flight, I got to work with this unforgettable crew nearly every week for over two years. First I was struck by their great abilities on a professional level. The crew was completely dedicated to their mission, paying close attention to every detail. However I also admire them on a personal level, because they were so dedicated to each other and those who worked on 107. They made me feel like family, welcoming each session with a hug and smile. In their memory, I hope we continue to carry on with the same respect and honor.

Karin Bergh, Project Lead, Lockheed Martin

■ When my son Anthony was deciding which college to attend, we visited Texas Tech University in 2001. Since he was interested in the undergraduate Engineering program, we toured that department and noticed NASA items in a display case showing Mechanical Engineering graduate and alumnus, Rick Husband. I sent an e-mail message to Rick, asking about his experiences at Tech and what advice he might impart to my son. Rick was very forthcoming and his advice eventually led to Anthony selecting Tech. Rick also sent a signed photograph to Anthony that he will cherish always.

Louis Cioletti, Project Coordinator, Bioastronautics Program, Wyle Laboratories Life Sciences

■ The crew inspired my continuing personal improvement to: live a life filled with humor and joy; thank family, friends and co-workers often; build close bonds with the wonderful mix of people who cross our paths, then share intimate, personal moments of friendship with them; find hobbies I really love, then share them with others and invite them to participate; develop inclusive leadership manners; study and work hard to do the very best I can given my capabilities, gifts and limitations; and accept responsibility in the face of risk.

Carolynn Conley, Increment Engineer, Barrios Technology

■ The STS-107 crewmembers were very special to us in Life Sciences, not only because of the experiments they were conducting, but also due to their backgrounds. All of the crewmembers were kind and empathetic, often taking time from their busy lives to personally attend to the needs of friends and family around them. Yet they each had special gifts of intellectual curiosity, perseverance and never-ending energy. Their dedication to the acquisition of knowledge inspired me to ensure that our research here in Space Medicine serves as many “in need” people as we can through scientific presentations, outreach, and publications.

Jeffrey A. Jones, Medical Operations office

■ I first met Laurel Salton in the 7th grade at Monroe Junior High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1972. She was a clear-thinking, prim, proper and inquisitive girl – a far cry from her contemporary male classmates. I didn’t see Cmdr. Laurel Clark, USN, again until 2000, when she visited WSTF. We had some fun with Laurel at the WSTF Open House showing pictures from our days at Monroe JHS. I grieve for all those lost on *Columbia*, but Laurel has a special place in my memories as a real life survivor and an inspiration.

David Loyd, Chief of the Quality Assurance, Reliability & Safety Office, White Sands Test Facility

■ One of the ironies of life is that it sometimes takes tragedy to make us aware of all that we have. I didn’t know the STS-107 crew in life, but their loss instilled in me a deeper appreciation for the time I’ve been given, and that we should make every moment count as if it was our last. From everything I’ve read, that’s what every member of this crew did. Like the magnet on my refrigerator says: “The aim of life is to live, and to live is to be aware – joyously, drunkenly, serenely, divinely aware.” –Henry Miller

Marshall Mellard, Graphic Designer, IMPASS contract

■ I was inspired by the crew of *Columbia* by knowing that these seven individuals gave the ultimate sacrifice minutes away from being home after working a long, hard, successful mission. I felt compelled to help in the recovery effort. I volunteered and was assigned a two-week stint in Corsicana, Texas, walking fields with Forestry Service fire fighters and identifying parts recovered. No matter how tired I was, wild horses couldn’t have dragged me away from helping in the recovery effort. It was my way of giving back my time and talent to the dedicated STS-107 crew and their families.

Andrew J. Ideler, Mission Operations Directorate Avionics, Reconfiguration Systems Group

■ I didn’t realize the depth of how much I was affected by this tragedy until I tried to explain to my daughters what happened. I knew the part I played may be small but when all small parts come together it makes for something big; each part is important. My daughters and I don’t live together, but we promised to pray for the astronauts and thank the lord that we still have each other. *Columbia* has inspired me to be more professional, a better father and friend and more aware of how the government votes to keep this program going.

Donald Roberson, Supply Tech, DynCorp

■ I was inspired by the crew of *Columbia* when I learned that they had come together to pray. This is an example to the rest of the world that people of different religious beliefs, ethnic backgrounds, and nationalities can work together in peace for the common good of humanity.

Laz Gonzales, Computer Facilities Administrator, Flight Design and Dynamics Division

Walk through these doors and remember: you are not on television, your picture will not make the morning edition. On a good day, the world will never know you exist, for you toil not in the light but in its shadow.

But know too that what you do here is no less important because of these things. Quite the contrary.

What you do here, you do for your country, for the world, and for the men and women who wear stars.

What you do here allows humankind to reach beyond what it was: to explore, to learn, and to understand.

Six hundred years ago you would have been building ships for men named Columbus and Magellan. Six hundred years from now, your children’s children will build starships for men and women whose grandparents are not yet born.

What you do here makes the future possible. What you do here today makes tomorrow better.

The world may never see you, but know this – that those who stand in shadow also serve.

Brent H. Bynum, The Boeing Company,
NASA Systems/MEDS T&O



Brent Bynum of the Multifunction Electronic Display Subsystem Test and Operations Group is shown in Building 9.

■ I have been inspired to be more diligent in carrying out my duties, knowing that my actions can affect areas I am unaware that I am impacting. I have been more observant of the practices around me and how they affect my quality of work life. I have a more jaundiced eye towards my attitude, towards my work and what I need to get accomplished. I better understand how critical it is that I give NASA diligence in carrying out our mission and requirements, knowing that I have my leader’s support!

Barry B. Copeland, CPA, Orbital Space Plane Project Control Office

■ Life is fraught with uncertainty, which can be a source of discomfort. To me, the glorious legacy of the brave, selfless crew of *Columbia* is the continuing reminder to give your best, do your best, and never fear the future.

Mary Peterson, Editor, Safety & Total Health Newsletter

■ During the practice launch count in December of 2002, we had a quiet dinner the night the crew arrived at KSC. Since we were so happy to be finally close to launch, we celebrated and had several toasts. I started the toasts by telling the crew that I respected them not for being astronauts, or pilots, or doctors or highly accomplished people, but for the great attitudes that each showed continually. They always stressed that everyone was important and everyone matters. We were all in it together. They didn’t just share the mission. They shared themselves.

Robert Hanley, Vehicle Integration Test Office, Flight Crew Operations

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

■ As we are inspired to Return to Flight, I am personally committed to offer and apply all of my past abilities and experience that include Apollo, Skylab, ASTP, Space Shuttle, and International Space Station. My vision for NASA and human flight is to personally commit my energy and experience to leave no stone unturned to assure safe future flights for our excellent NASA Flight Crews that follow the “Crew of *Columbia*”. Our NASA Flight Crews represent the greatest nation on Earth, the USA.

Joe Levine, Innovative Solutions

■ The STS-107 *Columbia* crew inspired me through the joy and awe they found in the simplest of things: Faith, career, family, nature, sports, flight, hobbies, fashion, humor and their relationship with each other. This legacy of the *Columbia* crew has inspired me to look beyond myself, examine my faith, renew my commitment to family and friends and learn to make the most of every moment. I take great comfort in the knowledge that they lived more in their brief lives than most people do in a lifetime. And I have my lifetime to honor their examples and legacy.

Ellen A. Gillis, Publicist, Astronaut Appearances Office

■ The crew of *Columbia* had a dream – a dream shared by many. It was the dream of exploring space, and they had the wonderful opportunity of actually seeing their dream come true. They knew that exploring space is risky, but it is also part of human destiny and one of the most noble and most interesting vocations possible. Life would be dull indeed if we were not willing to take some risk. For us, life goes on, but we are inspired by them, by their contribution, and by their dream.

Arthur L. Schmitt, SAIC - Innovative Solutions

■ The crew of *Columbia* had a special camaraderie that was quite evident when they scheduled and flew jets out at Ellington Field. What inspired me most about them was how they were trained to go “higher, faster, and farther.” Rick Husband and Mike Anderson said it in so many words in church, that if anything were to happen up there, “they would just keep going, to a higher plain.” And they did. They are an inspiration to all of us here at NASA. In their memory we will find the strength to return to flight.

Charlie Ober, Flight Management Specialist, Aircraft Operations Division

■ I’m in the JSC Graphics Department, and worked with Rick Husband to produce his first flight patch: the STS-96 patch. This was also the first Shuttle crew patch I had been assigned, and I was a little in awe of working directly with an astronaut, but Rick quickly put me at ease. He treated me as if my job was as important to the space program as his. As far as I know, he treated everyone like this, and really believed it. This was the first time that I really felt like I was a part of the space program.

Cindy Bush, Graphic Designer, IMPASS contract

- C - The cohesiveness that they exhibited with each other
- O - The opportunity of a lifetime to explore space, do research and test human spaceflight on the ground and in the air
- L - A league of extraordinary men and women
- U - An unrelenting pursuit of excellence in their chosen fields
- M - In memory of the STS-107 crewmembers
- B - To go beyond the call of duty
- I - To keep the integrity of the space program intact
- A - To aim high

Oretta Cade, Program Integration office, Space and Life Sciences Directorate

■ As I reflect on the lives of the men and women who were a part of the *Columbia* crew, I marvel at their willingness and courage to live their lives according to what they believed was worth accomplishing. Each crewmember put his or her heart and soul into a dream and made it a reality. They lived their lives with “Purpose.” I am inspired to live my life to the best of my being. I am inspired to dream big and not be afraid to make my dreams a reality. I am inspired to live a life that has “Purpose.”

Keresa Aaron, BC Program Controls Analyst, Wyle Laboratories Inc.



The crew of STS-107 gets ready to have their crew portrait taken with NASA JSC photographer, Robert Markowitz.

jsc2002e32645

David Brown plays around for the camera prior to the photo session.

jsc2002e32536

■ I was greatly inspired by the *Columbia* crew’s enthusiasm – to the last they were all so enthused about the projects and data that they were bringing back. Even with such a tremendous loss of this precious crew, there will always be a special inspiration to me of their spectacular zeal in the quest of their space endeavors.

Dianne Milner, ERIAR&SD Division Secretary

■ The crew of STS-107 believed that no matter how dangerous the job that it doesn’t matter as long as you love and believe in what you are doing. So many of us go through life and don’t truly love and believe in what we are doing. The crew inspired me to truly take part and believe with all my heart and all my soul in the job that I do for NASA. They made me understand the importance of exploration and pushing the envelope. They inspired me to never give up no matter what the cause if you believe in something.

Tiffany Travis, Communications Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, IMPASS contract

■ Our payload had activities throughout the mission. The crew’s diligence and attention to detail was evident. Leaving from Mission Control to support the landing, I felt pride as I reflected on their achievements. I remembered a previous training session in which the crew discussed strategy with a style and enthusiasm that I imagine occurs during real-time development of a football play! Who would pass to whom and who would hand off to whom. Wow! I will remember this crew with twinkles in their eyes, each taking turns to discuss each other’s experiments. Their determination and strength inspire future achievements.

Lisa Juliette, Cell Scientist