

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.

jsc2004e00076