

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.

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■ 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