



## 2003 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 20

February 20, 2003 - Introduced by Representatives SCHNEIDER, BOYLE, PLOUFF, TRAVIS, SINICKI, M. LEHMAN, YOUNG, LOEFFELHOLZ, BALOW, GRONEMUS, KRAWCZYK, J. LEHMAN, SERATTI, KAUFERT, MCCORMICK, SUDER, MUSSER, LADWIG, ALBERS, AINSWORTH, VRUWINK, NISCHKE, POPE-ROBERTS, OLSEN, MORRIS, VRAKAS, HINES, BERCEAU, JESKEWITZ, GIELOW, HAHN, SHILLING, MILLER, VAN AKKEREN, WEBER, JENSEN, KREUSER, COLON, KRUG, HUBLER and LASSA, cosponsored by Senators CARPENTER, BRESKE, KEDZIE, HARSDORF, LAZICH, RISSER, SCHULTZ, BROWN, ROESSLER and KANAVAS.

1       **Relating to:** the lives and tragic deaths of the Columbia space shuttle astronauts.

2               Whereas, the Columbia space shuttle's crew, comprised of men and women from  
3 different nations and diverse backgrounds who represented the dreams and  
4 aspirations of our nation and other nations and who were dedicated to expanding the  
5 boundaries of scientific research and space flight exploration; and

6               Whereas, their 16-day mission was pure science in which 80 experiments were  
7 performed; and

8               Whereas, on February 1, 2003, while the space shuttle Columbia was coming  
9 home from another successful mission, it disintegrated high above the Texas and  
10 Louisiana skies as it descended toward a landing at the Kennedy Space Center at  
11 Cape Canaveral, Florida; and

12               Whereas, the Columbia is the first space vehicle to be lost during reentry since  
13 NASA's inception in 1958; and

1           Whereas, the wreck of the Columbia just minutes from landing tragically  
2 reminded the people of the United States and the world that journeying into space  
3 remains a perilous endeavor; and

4           Whereas, with the tragic loss of the Columbia, the people are also reminded of  
5 the 1986 loss of the space shuttle Challenger and its crew; and

6           Whereas, the Columbia’s commander, U.S. Air Force Colonel Rick D. Husband  
7 had harbored an ambition to be an astronaut since boyhood; and

8           Whereas, as the mission neared its end, Columbia’s commander called for a  
9 moment of silence so the crew could mark the 17th anniversary of the explosion of  
10 the Challenger during its launch; and

11           Whereas, U.S. Navy Commander William C. McCool, the Columbia’s pilot, was  
12 making his first trip into space; and

13           Whereas, U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, the shuttle’s  
14 payload commander, U.S. Navy Captain David Brown, one of the Columbia’s mission  
15 specialists, and Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, aerospace engineer, were  
16 veterans of earlier space missions and related activities; and

17           Whereas, Ilan Ramon was Israel’s first astronaut; and

18           Whereas, Wisconsin was directly affected by the loss of U.S. Navy Commander  
19 Laurel Clark, the Columbia’s mission specialist, who considered Racine her  
20 hometown and who received both a B.S. degree and medical degree from  
21 UW–Madison; now, therefore, be it

22           ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the  
23 Wisconsin legislature honor the memory of these 7 astronauts, express their sorrow  
24 at their deaths, share in the memory of their achievements, and extend their  
25 condolences to their families and friends; and, be it further

1           **Resolved, That** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint  
2 resolution to Ron Dittmore, the shuttle program manager at the Johnson Space  
3 Center in Houston, Texas; to the families of each Columbia astronaut; to Sean  
4 O'Keefe, administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
5 (NASA); to the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C.; and to each member of the  
6 Wisconsin congressional delegation.

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**(END)**