

House Resolution 119

By: Representatives Beasley-Teague of the 48th, Post 2, Mangham of the 62nd, Teper of the 42nd, Post 1, Brooks of the 47th, Powell of the 23rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Ilan Ramon and expressing condolences to his family; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on the morning of February 1, 2003, the nation was shocked to learn of the loss
4 of the Space Shuttle Columbia during reentry after a spectacular mission during which a
5 large number of scientific experiments took place; and

6 WHEREAS, among the seven brave men and women of the Columbia's crew was Israeli
7 astronaut Ilan Ramon, the son of a Holocaust survivor, who, like his American counterparts,
8 represented the best of his country, and he will forever be an example to succeeding
9 generations of what we can be if we believe that the advancement of science is also the
10 advancement of our civilization, and if we believe strongly enough in that tenet that we are
11 willing to take even such great risks and make even so great a sacrifice; and

12 WHEREAS, the heartbreaking loss of the crew members of Columbia immediately touched
13 every American, and instinctively our thoughts and prayers went out to their families who
14 lived with the knowledge that such a tragedy could occur and who now were faced with the
15 reality that their loved ones had given their lives for the country they loved; and

16 WHEREAS, while Colonel Ramon is representative of so many things positive, it is
17 important to remember that he was more than merely an astronaut; he was a husband, a son,
18 and a father who left behind loved ones who mourn with us on a more personal level, and
19 while the dead demand honor and recognition, Colonel Ramon's family, his wife, Rona, his
20 children, his 79 year-old father, Eliezer Wolferman, and the other members of his family
21 require our sympathy, prayers, and support; and

22 WHEREAS, our words and actions in response to this unimaginable tragedy will soon fade
23 from memory, but the example, the achievements, the honor, and ultimately the sacrifice of
24 Colonel Ramon and the rest of the Columbia's crew will remain fresh forever; and

1 WHEREAS, Psalm 30:5 says "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the
2 morning." God is faithful and He is able to keep you during this difficult time. May he rest
3 in peace with our Lord.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 the members of this body honor the heroism of Colonel Ilan Ramon, express shock and
6 sadness at his tragic loss, and convey condolences to his grieving family and friends.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
8 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Rona Ramon.