

## House Resolution 126

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 104<sup>th</sup>, Coleman of the 118<sup>th</sup>, Buck of the 112<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 111<sup>th</sup>, Porter of the 119<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia and expressing condolences to their  
2 families; and 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, the heartbreaking loss of the crew members of Columbia immediately touched  
7 every American, and instinctively our thoughts and prayers went out to their families who  
8 lived with the knowledge that such a tragedy could occur and who now were faced with the  
9 reality that their loved ones had given their lives for the country they loved; and

10 WHEREAS, these seven brave men and women, six Americans and one Israeli, represent  
11 the best of their countries and will forever be examples to succeeding generations of what  
12 we can be if we believe that the advancement of science is also the advancement of our  
13 civilization, and if we believe strongly enough in that tenet that we are willing to take even  
14 such great risks and make even so great a sacrifice; and

15 WHEREAS, while the Columbia and its crew are representative of so many things positive,  
16 it is important to remember that each member of the crew was more than an astronaut; he or  
17 she was a person, a member of a family, a man or woman who left behind relatives and  
18 friends who mourn with us on a more personal level, and while the dead demand honor and  
19 recognition the living require our sympathy, prayers, and support; and

20 WHEREAS, our words and actions in response to this unimaginable tragedy will soon fade  
21 from memory, but the example, the achievements, the honor, and ultimately the sacrifice of  
22 the Columbia's crew will remain fresh forever.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
2 the members of this body honor the heroism of the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia,  
3 express shock and sadness at their tragic loss, and convey condolences to their grieving  
4 families and friends.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
6 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.