

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

CHALLENGER -- ONE YEAR LATER

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY AMERICA STOOD STILL IN STUNNED SILENCE AS IT HEARD THE TERRIBLE NEWS FROM THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER: THE SPACE SHUTTLE "CHALLENGER" WAS GONE. OUR SCIENTIFIC PRIDE AND JOY, OUR HEROIC SPACE EXPLORERS, OUR FIRST CIVILIAN IN SPACE, WERE ALL LOST IN ONE SHATTERING MOMENT OVER THE FLORIDA SHORELINE.

ELOQUENT TRIBUTES

THE NATION MOURNED. HERE IN THE SENATE, THE TRAGEDY WAS A PERSONAL ONE AS OUR ASTRONAUT COLLEAGUES JOHN GLENN AND JAKE GARN DELIVERED ELOQUENT AND EMOTIONAL TRIBUTES TO THEIR FRIENDS AND FELLOW PIONEERS. ALL OF US TRIED TO COPE WITH THE UNTHINKABLE: WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER WHERE WE WERE, AND WHAT WE WERE DOING, WHEN WE HEARD THE NEWS. AND THIS SENATOR WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE WORDS OF SENATOR GLENN AND GARN.

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

AND SO IT IS ONE YEAR LATER. THROUGHOUT THE NATION TODAY AMERICANS WILL HONOR THE MEMORY OF OUR SEVEN SPACE HEROES. IN HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT WAYS, AND IN HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT PLACES, THE NATION WILL RECALL THE SACRIFICE OF DICK SCOBEE, MICHAEL SMITH, ELLISON ONIZUKA, RONALD McNAIR, JUDY RESNICK, GREGORY JARVIS AND CHRISTA McAULIFFE.

I KNOW THAT MY SENATE COLLEAGUES JOIN ME IN HONORING THESE SEVEN BRAVE AMERICANS AND WE EXTEND TO THEIR FAMILIES OUR SINCERE PRAYERS AND REMEMBRANCES. AMERICA WILL ALWAYS KEEP A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS FOR THESE COURAGEOUS FRIENDS.

(MORE)

CAPITOL MEMORIAL

I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT ONE YEAR LATER, WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO COMPLETING A MEMORIAL HERE IN THE CAPITOL TO THE CHALLENGER CREW AND THE OTHER ASTRONAUTS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES TO AMERICA'S SPACE PROGRAM. IT WAS MY THOUGHT A YEAR AGO THAT ONE WAY TO HONOR THESE MEN AND WOMEN WAS TO PLACE A SPECIAL CHALLENGER MURAL IN THE FAMOUS BRUMIDI CORRIDOR.

WITHIN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS, A FINAL SELECTION WILL BE MADE AND THE ARTISTS WORK WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE GLITTERING HALLWAY WHERE GREAT AMERICANS HAVE BEEN HONORED SINCE 1855. I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER TRIBUTE TO THESE ASTRONAUTS THAN TO HAVE THEIR MURAL PLACED DIRECTLY ACROSS THE CORRIDOR FROM THE PICTURE OF THE APOLLO ASTRONAUTS LANDING ON THE MOON.

FOR YEARS TO COME, THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO TRAVEL TO THE CAPITOL WILL BE ABLE TO GAZE AT THE SPECIAL MURAL AND REMEMBER WITH PRIDE THE CREW OF THE "CHALLENGER".

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