

TAPE FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

LAST WEEK, OUR NATION WITNESSED THE WORST DISASTER IN SPACE HISTORY. THE SEVEN-MEMBER CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER WAS KILLED WHEN THE AIRCRAFT EXPLODED ONE MINUTE AFTER TAKE-OFF. AMONG THOSE KILLED WAS THE NATION'S FIRST CIVILIAN ASTRONAUT -- SCHOOLTEACHER CHRISTA MCAULIFFE OF CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

WHILE WE AS A NATION, AND A STATE, ARE NUMB WITH GRIEF, WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER THAT THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN DIED ON A MISSION TO EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN, THE NEW FRONTIER OF SPACE. TO ABRUPTLY HALT THE MISSION UPON WHICH WE HAVE EMBARKED WOULD REDUCE THE DEATH OF THESE BRAVE AMERICANS TO A SYMBOL OF THE FAILURE OF OUR DREAMS, AND THE DREAMS WHICH THEY SHARED WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE SPACE PROGRAM.

OUR SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM, ALONG WITH THE REST OF OUR SPACE PROGRAM IS SOMETHING IN WHICH WE ALL TAKE PRIDE. PLEASE JOIN ME IN PRAYING FOR THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WE HAVE LOST -- AND FOR THOSE WHO WILL FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS INTO THE UNEXPLORED REGIONS OF SPACE.

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