

The Columbia Remembered



Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, William McCool and Ilan Ramon.

BACKGROUND:



The break-up of the space shuttle Columbia on Saturday with seven astronauts on board, including the first from Israel, was the latest in a series of accidents since space exploration began in 1957 with the launch of the Soviet Sputnik

satellite. The following is a chronology of some key space incidents:

October 1960 -- Ninety-one people are killed when an R-16 rocket explodes at the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan in the Soviet Union.

January 1967 -- Three U.S. astronauts -- Virgil Grissom, Roger Chaffee and Edward White -- die in a "flash fire" aboard Apollo 1 during a simulated launch at Cape Canaveral.

April 1967 -- Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Mikhailovich Komarov is first man to die in a space mission when a parachute on his spaceship fails on re-entry and the ship crashes to Earth.

June 1971 -- Three Soviet cosmonauts die during re-entry after 24 days in an orbiting space laboratory, a record endurance flight at that time.

March 18, 1980 -- Fifty technicians die at Russia's Plesetsk Cosmodrome when a Vostok booster explodes while being fueled. The incident is reported only in 1989.

January 28, 1986 -- Seven U.S. astronauts including a schoolteacher die aboard the Challenger space shuttle 72 seconds after lift-off from Cape Canaveral.

June 18, 1991 -- A 46-foot (15-meter) Prospector rocket carrying 10 science experiments for the U.S. space agency and several universities is destroyed after veering off course after launch from Cape Canaveral.

August 2, 1993 -- A Titan 4 rocket believed to be carrying an expensive military spy satellite explodes after lift-off from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

December 1, 1994 -- Western Europe's 70th Ariane rocket crashes into the Atlantic with the \$150 million PanAmsat-3 telecoms satellite after launch from Kourou, French Guiana.

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February 15, 1996 -- A rocket carrying an Intelsat 708 communications satellite explodes soon after take-off from China's launch site in Xichang.

May 20, 1996 -- A Soyuz-U booster rocket carrying reconnaissance satellites explodes 49 seconds after lift-off from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome.

June 25, 1997 -- Russia's Mir space station carrying two Russian cosmonauts and one American collides with a cargo ship. Crew narrowly escape death.

August 12, 1998 -- The U.S. Titan rocket program is put on hold when a Titan 4A explodes soon after lift-off in one of history's most expensive space disasters. The cost of the rocket and its spy satellite cargo was more than \$1 bill.

July 5, 1999 -- A Russian Proton-K heavy booster rocket launched from Baikonur suffers a malfunction that detaches the engine and parts of the booster, causing them to crash onto the steppe. A 200-kg (440-lb) chunk falls into the courtyard of a private house. Kazakhstan briefly closes Baikonur in a row with Russia over clean-up costs and rent for the base.

September 23, 1999 -- NASA's \$125 million Mars Climate Orbiter spacecraft breaks up as it enters the Martian atmosphere due to confusion among its constructors between metric and old English measuring units.

October 28, 1999 -- A Russian Proton rocket carrying a communications satellite crashes shortly after take-off from Baikonur.

December 3, 1999 -- NASA's Mars Polar lander loses contact with earth after reaching the Red Planet. The \$165 million mission is a write-off.

August 15, 2002 -- NASA's \$159 million Contour space probe, launched on July 3 and designed to chase comets, breaks up on leaving Earth's atmosphere.

December 11, 2002 -- An upgraded European Space Agency Ariane-5 rocket explodes soon after blast-off from Kourou, French Guiana, sending two satellites worth about \$600 million plunging into the Atlantic Ocean.

February 1, 2003 -- The space shuttle Columbia, carrying seven astronauts including the first from Israel, breaks up over Texas on re-entering atmosphere at end of 16-day flight.

Tuesday marked the 17th anniversary of the loss of the shuttle Challenger, a startling and equally tragic disaster that claimed the lives of seven astronauts just 73 seconds after their liftoff from Florida. President Reagan appointed a 13-member commission headed by former Secretary of State William P. Rogers to investigate the accident. That commission reported four months later that an O-ring seal leaked in the right booster rocket. That allowed hot gases to burn through the bracket securing the booster to the shuttle, rupturing the shuttle tank. The shuttle fleet was grounded for nearly three years while changes were instituted and repairs made.

NASA's recovery from Challenger took 2 1/2 years and, by some estimates, \$15 billion -- as much as NASA's entire 2003 budget -- to fabricate a replacement spacecraft, modify the flawed rocket boosters that triggered the disaster and make hundreds of other small safety changes. But it was America's first space tragedy, a 1967 launchpad fire that killed three Apollo astronauts, that awakened the nation to the risks that would accompany humanity's first steps onto the final frontier. That disaster, which caused the deaths of Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee, represented a different era.

The United States was locked in a Cold War race to the moon with the former Soviet Union. President Kennedy had pledged the nation to landing men on the moon and returning them safely to Earth before the 1960s came to a close.

The cause was as popular with politicians and the public as it was with the White House. NASA rallied from that tragedy to achieve the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing.

Now, roughly 14 years after the end of the Cold War, America's course for human explorers beyond the space station is up for grabs.

Currently, NASA is involved in an aggressive program to explore Mars robotically. The goal is to determine if the Red Planet once hosted conditions to support some form of life, a finding that could crystallize support for human missions later this century.

Before Columbia's breakup, the White House was beginning to show signs of following that trail. In the 2004 budget, which the White House plans to unveil Monday, is a new NASA initiative called Project Prometheus, a major effort to develop nuclear space propulsion and power sources that would enable human explorers to once again venture beyond Earth's orbit. They have not ventured so far in three decades, and Saturday's disaster occurred as NASA seemed on the verge of opening new vistas.

Two years ago, the Bush administration responded to a projected \$5 billion cost overrun for the space station by instructing NASA to scale back its plans. NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, appointed by President Bush in 2001 to sort out the financial difficulties, seemed on the verge of accomplishing the goal. Under his leadership, the space agency had narrowed the focus of the research to solving the health issues that would prevent astronauts from traveling deeper into the solar system.

NASA's struggles to find a successor for the aging shuttle fleet have not fared so well. In 1996, NASA began an ambitious effort to build a cheaper, more reliable replacement. But six years later, the space agency canceled the effort because it cost too much. The space agency and a corporate partner had poured nearly \$1.4 billion into the X-33, a prototype for a larger reusable rocket, when the project was canceled.

Then NASA turned to a new venture called the Space Launch Initiative, a \$4.85 billion project to fund a range of advancements in propulsion, flight control and structural materials for a new reusable rocket. This time, there was no commitment to actually build a spacecraft.

Late last year, NASA overhauled the Space Launch Initiative as well, disclosing that estimates for a shuttle replacement using the best of the new technologies might reach \$30 billion.

STORY:

United again in sorrow, Americans mourned the deaths of the space shuttle astronauts

at church services Sunday, while investigators mobilized to determine what went wrong. Search crews - some on horseback, some in helicopters - tracked debris across Texas and Louisiana.

At churches across America, at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, at a U.S. Army base in Afghanistan, even in the Iraq National Assembly, the loss of the seven Columbia astronauts gave rise to grief and reflection.

The debris found so far was being trucked to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana for analysis by engineering experts. Their findings will be part of a NASA investigation aimed at discovering why the shuttle disintegrated Saturday, just moments from its scheduled landing in Florida.

"We're securing all the debris and assuring that we look at every possible angle of what could have caused this horrible accident," NASA chief Sean O'Keefe said. "We are making sure that we don't take any pet theory or any one approach and favoring over one or another."

A special federal commission also will conduct an investigation, with its emphasis on policy matters affecting the future of the U.S. space program. Harold W. Gehman Jr., the retired Navy admiral who helped lead the Pentagon's inquiry into the USS Cole bombing, will head that commission.

Committees in the House and Senate also plan to examine the disaster. "The key issue for us in Congress is why did it happen, how did it happen, how do we fix it and then how do we project on forward with manned space flight?" said Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan.

Across hundreds of square miles of Texas and Louisiana, civilian and military authorities used horses, four-wheel drive vehicles, Army helicopters and satellite data to locate shuttle debris. Human remains, including a charred torso, were found along the Texas-Louisiana state line.

Kerss said it could be weeks or months before searchers reach remote areas that might hold pieces of the shuttle.

No injuries were reported due to falling debris. But Sue Kennedy, emergency management coordinator for Nacogdoches County, said 70 people went to local hospitals because they touched debris and were concerned about possible toxic contamination.

In Houston, the entrance to the Johnson Space Center was turned into a shrine for the fallen astronauts — shuttle commander Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, William McCool and Ilan Ramon. Mourners left flowers, burning candles, teddy bears, American flags and notes.

For embattled Israelis, who had rejoiced in Ramon's mission as a respite from constant violence with the Palestinians, the disaster was a devastating blow to morale. In Bagram, Afghanistan, it deepened the grief already felt by U.S. troops after a helicopter crash killed four soldiers Thursday.

Russia launched an unmanned cargo ship to the international space station Sunday, a day after the loss of the Columbia threw future missions to the orbiting complex in doubt. Russian spacecraft and American shuttles have shared the task of supplying the space station with fuel, equipment and mail for the crew.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The loss of the shuttle Columbia and its crew of seven astronauts Saturday dims an already clouded future for America's 45-year-old space program. NASA's second shuttle disaster will stir fresh debate over the cost and justifications for space exploration at a time when homeland defense costs are soaring and an expensive war with Iraq is looming.

In an especially poignant moment, NASA spaceflight chief Bill Readdy, a former astronaut,

said the families of Columbia's grief-stricken astronauts expressed the sentiment that "we must find out what went wrong and move on."

But if history provides a sign post, NASA's recovery from Columbia's loss will take more than commitment and wishful thinking. For years, critics have questioned the \$3 billion-a-year cost of the shuttle program and the wisdom of tackling another daunting program, such as the space station, with a U.S. shuttle fleet that is more than two decades old and poses so much risk.

Now reduced to three spacecraft, NASA's fleet is the linchpin of the U.S.-led international space station, a commitment by 16 nations to develop and operate a permanently occupied scientific laboratory in Earth's orbit.

Without the shuttle, NASA cannot deliver and attach the remaining segments of the station or deliver new resident crews and supplies to the space station. Until shuttle flights resume, the Russians assume responsibility for the station's cargo and crew delivery requirements, but they have already warned the United States that financial problems could ground their capsules. NASA has weathered tragedies before.

The space agency's latest strategy calls for the development of a small space plane, a spacecraft that could be launched on an expendable rocket with a few astronauts but no cargos. NASA hopes the Orbital Space Plane could be flying by 2010.

The space agency also planned to begin extending the life of its space shuttle fleet with safety improvements, better computers and other modifications. Plans to retire the shuttle fleet in 2012 were replaced with an unfolding strategy to keep the spacecraft flying until 2020 or longer.

After Challenger's loss, the White House and Congress responded with a commitment to fund a replacement, the Endeavour. But in the early 1990s, while former President Bush occupied the White House, a change in space policy was made that said Endeavour would be the last of the shuttles.

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:



**THE WEEKLY REPORT'S
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
CELEBRATES:
Dred Scott
(1795-1858)**

Dred Scott, in an effort to gain his freedom, waged one of the most important legal battles in the history of the United States.

Dred Scott was born a slave in Virginia. Industrious and intelligent, he was employed as a farmhand, stevedore, craftsman, and general handyman. In 1819, his original owner moved to Huntsville, Alabama, and later to St. Louis, Missouri. In 1832 he died, and Scott was sold for \$500 to a surgeon in the U.S. Army who took Scott to the free state of Illinois in 1834. Later the doctor returned with Scott to Missouri.

When the surgeon died, Scott was passed to John Sanford. In 1846 he filed suit in the Missouri state courts for his freedom on the grounds that residence in a free territory had liberated him. Scott's suit finally came before the U.S. Supreme Court. On March 6, 1857, in *Dred Scott v. John Sanford*, after much debate the Supreme Court ruled against Scott 7 to 2, with Chief Justice Roger B. Taney giving the majority opinion. According to Taney, Scott could not sue Sanford because he was not a U.S. citizen. The justice argued that Scott was not a citizen because he was both a black man and a slave. Taney's remarks that black men "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect" came as a severe blow to abolitionists.

This crucial decision electrified the country, for Taney had ruled that African Americans were not citizens of the United States and that an act of Congress (the Missouri Compromise of 1820) was unconstitutional. He also had redefined the relationship between the states and the Federal government, making possible the expansion of slavery into the

territories. Southerners rejoiced at the verdict; abolitionists denounced it and even went as far as discrediting the legitimacy of the Court itself.

A few months after the decision, on May 26, 1857, Scott's owner freed him. Scott continued to live in St. Louis until his death on September 17, 1858. Although African Americans would not become citizens of the United States until the ratification of the 14th Amendment in 1868, Scott's bid for freedom remained the most momentous judicial event of the century.

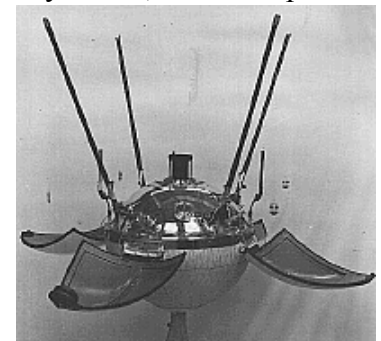
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

February 3, 1966

Lunik 9 soft-lands on Moon

On February 3, 1966, the Soviet Union accomplishes the first controlled landing on the moon, when the unmanned spacecraft *Lunik 9* touches down on the Ocean of Storms. After its soft landing, the circular capsule opened like a flower, deploying its antennas, and began transmitting photographs and television images back to Earth. The 220-pound landing capsule was launched from Earth on January 31.

Lunik 9 was the third major lunar first for the Soviet space program: On September 14, 1959, *Lunik 2* became the first manmade object to reach the moon when it impacted with the lunar surface, and on October 7 of the same year *Lunik 3* flew around the moon and transmitted back to Earth the first images of the dark side of the moon. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the U.S. space program consistently trailed the Soviet program in space firsts--a pattern that shifted dramatically with the triumph of America's Apollo lunar program in the late 1960s.



SPORTS:**Woman's Soccer
Draft (WUSA)**

Santa Clara midfielder Aly Wagner was selected by the San Diego Spirit with the first pick in the WUSA draft Sunday.

It's the second straight year a player from Santa Clara was the top selection; Carolina chose Danielle Slaton in 2002. Wagner, 22, also was a high school teammate of Slaton's.

San Diego swapped first-round picks with the New York Power as part of a five-player trade in September. In the largest deal in the league's two-year history, the Spirit sent midfielders Shannon Boxx and Sherrill Kester and defender Margaret Tietjen to New York in exchange for the top pick, midfielder Jan Lalor and forward Wynne McIntosh.

The Power drafted Penn State forward Christie Welsh with the second pick, and another Santa Clara player, Devvyn Hawkins, was taken next by the Boston Breakers.

Santa Clara made it to the NCAA women's final before losing to Portland 2-1 in double-overtime on Dec. 8.

The Philadelphia Charge took goalkeeper Hope Salo of Washington with the No. 4 pick, one of three first-round selections they had. They chose forward Deliah Harrington of Clemson with the sixth pick, and midfielder Mary McVeigh of Dartmouth with the seventh.

Midfielder Callie Withers of Stanford went at No. 5 to the Atlanta Beat, and the Carolina Courage took defender Breanna Boyd of Nebraska with the eighth and final pick of the first round.

Teams drafted 32 players over four rounds. The WUSA begins its third season April 5.

WUSA: <http://www.wusa.com>

ENTERTAINMENT:**Turner Done at AOL TW ?**

Ted Turner resigned as vice chairman of AOL Time Warner Inc., frustrated with the company's direction and nearly powerless, saying his vice chairmanship was "a title without portfolio ... like the emperor of Japan," in a "60 Minutes II" interview scheduled to air next week.

The media mogul still sits on the company's board, which imposes restrictions on his ability to sell those shares. Chief Executive Richard Parson's and Turner are expected to meet soon to discuss Turner's intentions. However, several insiders expect Turner to resign, which will give him more time for his philanthropic interests and allow him to speak more freely.

Turner, whose volatile public persona has drawn nicknames such as "the mouth of the South" and "Captain Outrageous," has made no secret about his disappointment at being sidelined by then CEO Gerald Levin in the early days after the merger was completed. Current CEO Parsons had reached out to Turner to bring him back into the fold once he took the helm and the outspoken mogul has been relatively quiet --publicly at least.

Some investors, however, said Turner was unlikely to dump large portions of his stake; but even if he keeps the shares, the threat of a Turner sell-off would likely prove to be an overhang on the already embattled stock, which fell 14 % on Wednesday after the company projected slow to no growth in 2003 and posted a record annual loss.

That could give Turner negotiating leverage if he decides to buy the Atlanta Hawks basketball team, the Atlanta Braves baseball team or the Atlanta Thrashers hockey team from AOL Time Warner. Turner may also devote more time his Atlanta-based Turner Productions business, which he founded in June 2001 to make feature films and documentaries.

Reuters contributed to this story.

FEATURE:

THE HISTORY CHANNEL 2003 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February 3:**HISTORYCENTER: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN
WORLD WAR II****9 am ET/PT**

Host Steve Gillon is joined by leading scholars, historians and journalists as they look at the role of African Americans in World War II and racism, prejudice and segregation in the military.

February 4:**The 54th Massachusetts****7 am ET/PT**

The story the first black fighting unit to be assembled in the North after the Emancipation Proclamation and its heroic but fateful assault on Ft. Wagner, South Carolina.

February 8:**George Wallace and Black Power****8 am ET/PT**

Alabama was the most violent battleground in the struggle for civil rights in the U.S. and leading the resistance was feisty governor George Wallace, who rode a populist platform to national prominence. Meanwhile the Black Power movement was formed to use more extreme means for racial justice.

MOVIES IN TIME: A SOLDIER'S STORY**9 pm/12 am ET/PT**

Howard E. Rollins stars as a military attorney sent to a 1944 Southern army base to investigate the murder of an unpopular black sergeant. Based on Charles Fuller's award-winning play.

February 9:**HISTORYCENTER: JULIAN BOND ON CIVIL
RIGHTS****9 am ET/PT**

Host Steve Gillon is joined Julian Bond as they discuss the struggles and successes of the civil rights movement and where things stand today.

February 11:**ALCAN HIGHWAY****10 pm ET/PT**

The two-lane, 1,500-mile long Alaska Highway is an unrivaled engineering feat. It took 11,000 soldiers, nearly 4,000 of them black, only eight months to build this highway in 1942.

February 13:**Black Aviators: Flying Free****8 am/2 pm ET/PT**

The stories of African-American men and women who defied the odds to fly high as 20th century aviation pioneers.

February 15:**Little Rock and Boston Busing****8 am ET/PT**

In 1957 Little Rock, Arkansas, the governor takes on the federal government to prevent nine black children from entering a formerly all-white school. A generation later in the mid-1970s, the battle over school segregation moves north. Boston, the cradle of liberty, becomes home of the most virulent anti-busing movement north of the Mason-Dixon line.

February 22:**America's Black Warriors****8 am ET/PT**

The story of African-Americans in the U.S. military during World War II and the integration of the army. Colin Powell and other prominent black military figures discuss how blacks had to go above and beyond the call of duty to earn the respect of fellow soldiers.

February 23:**THE WENDELL SCOTT STORY****10 am ET/PT**

An hour length broadcast documentary based on the extraordinary life of African-American stock car racer Wendell Oliver Scott who courageously broke through racing's color barrier in 1961 to become the only man of his race to compete full-time in NASCAR's Grand National series known today as the Winston-Cup.

February 25:**John Brown's War****7 am ET/PT**

A profile of the controversial crusader whose 1859 anti-slavery raid on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia foreshadowed the violence of the Civil War.

February 28:**Mississippi State Secrets****8 am/2 pm ET/PT**

In 1956, the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission was formed to spy on people thought to be associated with the Civil Rights movement. Funded by the state through 1972, it sometimes operated like George Orwell's "1984," and other times, the Keystone Cops. Recently-opened files offer a startling look at some of the violent and bizarre activity that this organization conducted to try to foil the civil rights movement.

Port Chicago Mutiny**9 am/3 pm ET/PT**

The story of the biggest homefront disaster during World War II and why fifty black sailors were court-martialed in its aftermath when they refused to return to work.

Quote of the Week:

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." *-Martin Luther King Jr.*

Fact of the Week:

The average person sheds a complete layer of skin every 28 days.

Word of the Week:

Self-evident *adj.* clear to the mental or physical eye in and of itself.

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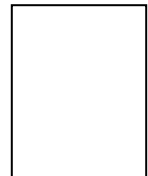
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