

Israeli Air Force. These men and women assumed great risk in the service to all humanity.

In an age when space flight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook the dangers of travel by rocket and the difficulties of navigating the fierce outer atmosphere of the Earth. These astronauts knew the dangers, and they faced them willingly, knowing they had a high and noble purpose in life. Because of their courage and daring and idealism, we will miss them all the more.

All Americans today are thinking as well of the families of these men and women who have been given this sudden shock and grief. You're not alone. Our entire Nation grieves with you. And those you loved will always have the respect and gratitude of this country.

The cause in which they died will continue. Mankind is led into the darkness beyond our world by the inspiration of discovery and the longing to understand. Our journey into space will go on.

In the skies today we saw destruction and tragedy. Yet farther than we can see, there is comfort and hope. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Lift your eyes and look to the heavens. Who created all these? He who brings out the starry hosts one by one and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing."

The same Creator who names the stars also knows the names of the seven souls we mourn today. The crew of the shuttle *Columbia* did not return safely to Earth. Yet we can pray that all are safely home.

May God bless the grieving families, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:04 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address. The proclamation of February 1 honoring the memory of the astronauts aboard Space Shuttle *Columbia* is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Memorandum on Declaration Under the Stafford Act for Louisiana: Space Shuttle *Columbia* February 1, 2003

*Memorandum for the Director of the
Federal Emergency Management Agency*

*Subject: Declaration Under the Stafford Act
for Louisiana: Space Shuttle Columbia*

I have determined that the emergency conditions in certain areas of the State of Louisiana in connection with the events relating to the loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on February 1, 2003, are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration under section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121–5206 (the "Stafford Act"). The basis for my decision to make this declaration

pursuant to section 501(b) of the Stafford Act includes the fact that the space shuttle and the space program are Federal property and Federal programs. I, therefore, declare that such an emergency exists in the State of Louisiana.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to coordinate and direct other Federal agencies and fund activities not authorized under other Federal statutes and allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal emergency assistance and administrative expenses.

Pursuant to this emergency declaration, you are authorized to provide emergency

assistance as you deem appropriate under title V of the Stafford Act at 100 percent Federal funding.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Declaration Under the Stafford Act for Texas: Space Shuttle *Columbia*
February 1, 2003

Memorandum for the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Subject: Declaration Under the Stafford Act for Texas: Space Shuttle Columbia

I have determined that the emergency conditions in certain areas of the State of Texas in connection with the events relating to the loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on February 1, 2003, are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration under section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121–5206 (the “Stafford Act”). The basis for my decision to make this declaration pursuant to section 501(b) of the Stafford Act includes the fact that the space shuttle and the space program are Federal property and Federal programs. I, therefore, declare that such an emergency exists in the State of Texas.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to coordinate and direct other Federal agencies and fund activities not authorized under other Federal statutes and allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal emergency assistance and administrative expenses.

Pursuant to this emergency declaration, you are authorized to provide emergency assistance as you deem appropriate under title V of the Stafford Act at 100 percent Federal funding.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks on Project BioShield in Bethesda, Maryland
February 3, 2003

Thanks for that warm welcome. It’s a delight to be here at the National Institutes of Health, a center of excellence, a center of the brilliance of the American people. It is a place where so many good people

do work every day to help save lives, and we’re thankful for that. America is really proud of what you do here. NIH is a great credit to America.