

Seven American astronauts will always be revered as heroes because of the . . .

Challenger Mission

On January 28, a day most Americans won't forget, seven heroes were killed in a mid-air disaster of the space shuttle Challenger. The Challenger mission was very special for Christa McAuliffe was chosen among 11,000 teachers who applied for the mission. Christa would have been the "first private citizen" in space.

The total flight of Challenger was the "melting pot" of all the other missions. Challenger was manned by two women, a Jew, a black, and a Catholic—people from vastly different origins.

Ronald McNair, the second black U.S. citizen to ever go into Space, was a South Carolinian who came from a small southern town with ra-

cial discrimination. Ronald was a very tenacious person who did not let prejudice hold him back. He was quoted as saying, "It means trying a little harder, fighting a little harder . . . It means building up a tolerance and not being discouraged." McNair received a doctorate in Physics from MIT.

Judith Resnik, second USA woman in space, was also aboard the catastrophic flight. Resnik, had logged 145 hours in Space before the Challenger mission.

We will always remember these seven brave Americans because they gave their lives to America's number one position in the space race.



The seven members of the STS 51-L flight, beginning back row, left to right: Ellison S. Onizuka, S. Christa McAuliffe, Gregory B. Jarvis, Judith A. Resnik, Michael J. Smith, Francis R. Scobee, and Ronald E. McNair.

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