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Subject Files - ME001-03 (Messages - Condolence/Death)

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Records Not Subject to FQIA

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554408 ME 001-03 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON LMS-I believe he already sent condolence note(s) . a Cishley ? Phesident sent a letter on 2/7 to cttapter. 3720/03 Ashly

Delta Kappa Epsilon 1234 Massachusetts Avenue NW Ste. C1017 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 637-9300

### **TRAGEDY HITS PHI!**

January 21, 2003

(from MA

George W Bush White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20500

Dear Brother Bush,

As you may be aware, in the early hours of Friday morning, a vehicle containing 9 Phi Dekes was involved in a collision on I95 near Bridgeport. Four brothers are now dead and three remain seriously injured in the hospital.

It appears that they were returning from a New York City "pledge event" and that it was a freak accident resulting from a semi truck losing control and spinning out.

Details are being updated as they are available on our web site www.dke.org . I immediately went to New Haven and did what I could. Funerals are in process. We have arranged transportation for the Chapter and are working to put together group meals and counseling and other activities for the chapter. Yale has been spectacular in its efforts to heal the Yale Community as have the baseball and football teams and coaches.

Condolences can be sent to Nick Sinatra, President DKE, 79 Lake Place, New Haven, CT 06511-3615. We are getting together a contact list of bereaved families, etc. Check the web site for continuing details, contact people, etc.

We need your help on almost every level. We will be putting together some sort of lasting memorial to the fallen brothers, probably a plaque and a scholarship. If you care to help now with the immediate expenses of helping out the active chapter or the long range memorial fund, feel free to make a contribution either to DKE or the Rampant Lion Foundation in the enclosed envelope.

As things develop, I will keep you further posted. This is an unbelievable tragedy. Please help.

In the bonds,

David K. Easlick, Jr.

NRN

MAH 3/20/13



B



4:38 P.M. Picked up by Patrick in Brett Kavanaugh's office. (BK will deliver to the event on Sat. 2/8)

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 7, 2003

Laura and I are saddened by the loss of Kyle Burnat, Sean Fenton, Nick Grass, and Andrew Dwyer. We send our heartfelt condolences to those gathered at Delta Kappa Epsilon at Yale. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

As you remember these four lives of great promise, I hope you will take comfort in your memories of them and the love and support of families and friends.

May God bless you and grant you peace, strength, and courage during this difficult time. May He also continue to watch over Eric Wenzel and Brett Smith in their recovery.

Spr 1 S



# THE WHITE HOUSE washington

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May God bless you and grant you comfort, strength, and courage during this difficult time. May He also continue to watch over Eric Wenzel and Brett Smith in their recovery.

GWB/(>>)/dv (Corres. #2682039) ((>>)) cc: Misty Marshall, Pres. Msgs., 9th Floor, 1800 G Street cc: Heidi Marquez, Pres. Corr., 9th Floor, 1800 G Street cc: Daniel Vogel, Pres. Writers, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1800 G Street

SENT TO: (>>)

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Smith in their recovery.

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SENT TO: (>>) Deleted: Providence

**Deleted:**, even as it is far from our own understanding



2806 6-5503



Brett M. Kavanaugh 02/07/2003 12:58:16 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Harriet Miers/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Ashley Estes/WHO/EOP@EOP Subject:

names: Kyle Burnat, Sean Fenton, Nicholas Grass, and Andrew Dwyer

their suggested message was:

The tragic news of the deaths of the four young men of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Yale brought deep sadness to me. I want to express my deepest condolences to all of you and the families of Kyle Burnat, Sean Fenton, Nick Grass, and Andrew Dwyer. I also pray for the speedy and full recovery of Eric Wenzel and Brett Smith. I know that the memory of Kyle, Sean, Nick and Andrew will stay alive in your hearts. For death ends a life, but not a relationship. May God bless their grieving families. My deepest sympathies,

	Misty C. Marshall 02/07/2003 03:32
• •,	Record Type: Record
	To: Lynn A. Crable/WHO/EOP@EOP, Janice L. Burmeister/WHO/EOP@EOP cc:
	Subject: Re: Message for Yale
	Lynn, can you pls make edits to this message. Jan - can you make sure this is dispatched to Brett.
	Forwarded by Misty C. Marshall/WHO/EOP on 02/07/2003 03:25 PM
	Stuart W. Bowen
	02/07/2003 03:16:51 PM Record Type: Record
	To: Misty C. Marshall/WHO/EOP@EOP cc: bcc:
	Subject: Re: Message for Yale
	2.YALEMEMORIALSERVICE.DV.MSGwith edits Misty C. Marshall
	Misty C. Marshall 02/07/2003 02:53
	Record Type: Record
	To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
	cc: Janice L. Burmeister/WHO/EOP@EOP, Shane P. Chambers/WHO/EOP@EOP, Sarah Campbell/WHO/EOP@EOP Subject: Message for Yale

Please see the attached Presidential Message regarding the Yale students who died in a recent car accident.

Per conversation with Brett Kavanaugh (WH Counsel) this event is a Delta Kappa Epsilon dinner. This original

Presidential Message will be given to the President of the fraternity, Nick Sinatra.

I have not received information for dispatching.



#### Message Sent To:

Harriet Miers/WHO/EOP@EOP Stuart W. Bowen/WHO/EOP@EOP Michael J. Boisvenue/WHO/EOP@EOP Debra D. Bird/WHO/EOP@EOP Carolyn E. Cleveland/WHO/EOP@EOP

PK Send 40 records. to file

Laura and I are saddened by the loss of Kyle Burnat, Sean Fenton, Nick Grass, and Andrew Dwyer. We send our heartfelt condolences to those gathered at Delta Kappa Epsilon at Yale. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

As you remember these four lives of great promise, I hope you will take

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Brett M. Kavanaugh 02/07/2003 12:58:16 PM

Record Type: Record

Harriet Miers/WHO/EOP@EOP To: Ashley Estes/WHO/EOP@EOP cc: Subject:

names: Kyle Burnat, Sean Fenton, Nicholas Grass, and Andrew Dwyer

their suggested message was:

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d sand greetrugs to those gathered in memory, of those killed... LA Suggested by Jan

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Feb7/Feb7

Laura and I are saddened by the loss of Kyle Burnat, Sean Fenton, Nick Grass, and Andrew Dwyer. We send our heartfelt condolences to those gathered at Delta Kappa Epsilon at Yale. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

As you remember these four lives of great promise, I hope you will take comfort in their memory, in the support of your families, and in the brotherhood that you share. May you place your hope in the Almighty and His Providence, even as it is far from our own understanding)

May God bless you and grant you comfort, strength, and courage during this difficult time. May He also continue to watch over Eric Wenzel and Brett Smith in their recovery.

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GWB/(>>)/dv (Corres. #2682039) ((>>)) cc: Misty Marshall, Pres. Msgs., 9th Floor, 1800 G Street cc: Heidi Marquez, Pres. Corr., 9th Floor, 1800 G Street cc: Daniel Vogel, Pres. Writers, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1800 G Street

SENT TO: (>>)

I send greetings to those gathered at Delta Kappa Epsilon at Yale in remembrance of Kyle Burnat, Sean Fenton, Nick Grass, and Andrew Dwyer.

Today, you remember not only one moment of tragedy, but four lives of great promise. I hope you will take comfort in their memory, in the support of your families, and in the brotherhood that you share. 2/1

May God bless you and grant you comfort, strength, and courage during this

difficult time.

GWB/(>>)/dv (Corres. #2682039) ((>>)) cc: Misty Marshall, Pres. Msgs., 9th Floor, 1800 G Street cc: Heidi Marquez, Pres. Corr., 9th Floor, 1800 G Street cc: Daniel Vogel, Pres. Writers, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1800 G Street

SENT TO: (>>)

To the Family of Richard Lyng:

Laura and I are saddened by your loss and send our heartfelt sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

As California Director of Agriculture, President of the American Meat Institute, and the Secretary of Agriculture under President Ronald Reagan, Dick Lyng helped strengthen our Nation's agricultural industry and contributed to a better quality of life for our citizens. Our Nation is grateful to him for his service to our country during World War II. His hard work, commitment, and achievements reflect the true American spirit and will not be forgotten.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

GWB/HKM/BP/DC/HEM/pw-ws-ddj (Corres. #2680229)

cc: Denise Cardamone, Pres. Corr., 1800 G Street, NW

SENT TO: The Honorable Ann Margaret Veneman Secretary of Agriculture Washington, D.C. 20250

DO NOT MAIL RETURN TO: Harriet Miers, 1FL/WW, x62702 for dispatch



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# Delta Kappa Eps Fraternity

"The Songs of DKE," our 1959 vinyl recording has been digitiz Click here for sample and details.



Mt. Dekemore! U.S. Presidents: Hayes, Bush, Bush, Roosevelt, and Ford George W. Bush, Phi '68, the 5th U.S. Pre the Stars and Scroll! \*



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### Collision takes DKE lives (updated Tuesday, January 22, 2003)

We have suffered an unbelievable tragedy. Early Friday morning on I95 near Bridgeport CT, a collision occurred which took the lives of four Phi Dekes The men were returning from an evening in New York City. Updated information appears in the <u>Yale Daily News</u>. A <u>necrology</u> appears on our web page. **Departed Brothers** 

Nick Grass Parents' Addresses of	Andrew Dwyer	Kyle Burnat	Sean Fenton	
Ms. Catina Grass (b)(6)		Dwyer <u>Mr. and Mrs. Lawre</u> r (b)(6)	nce Burnat <u>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fen</u> (b)(6)	<u>iton</u>
Mr. William Grass (b)(6)				
	) is serving as an alumni con ice at 203 237 2771.	tact for the moment. He	can be reached at home at	e set le tri g
Chris Plun cplunkett@ (b)(6)	in NYC is organizing efforts. kett, Phi '89 2avaloninc.com cell home <u>r president is the undergrad</u> The chapter address is	uate contact. His email is	nicholas.sinatra@yale.edu and	
79 Lake F	pa Epsilon 임 en, CT 06511-3615			
The police report will po	t he available for 4 weeks. A	s I learn more details I w	ill pass them along	

We will be setting up a memorial scholarship and plaque for the fallen. In the meantime, if anybody wants to contribute something, send it to DKE or the Rampant Lion Foundation and we will use it to help get Phi Dekes to funerals and feed them group meals, etc. Please send any contributions to DKE International to insure they are acknowledged and get to the most effective use.

David K. Easlick, Jr. Executive Director Delta Kappa Epsilon Headquarters: (202) 637-9300 My cell phone (b)(6)

### Tragic Accident of 17 January 2003

#### Updated Message to the Community

Secretary Lorimer 18 January 2003

As you know, there was a multiple-vehicle accident near Exit 24 on Interstate 95, on the Fairfield-Bridgeport border on Friday morning, January 17.

Three Yale College students died on Friday as a result of the accident: Kyle Burnat, CC '05, Andrew Dwyer, DC '05, and Sean Fenton, DC '04.

We have just received word that Nicholas Grass, PC '05, died at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport as a result of his injuries.

Three students were also injured but somewhat less seriously. Zachary Bradley, SY '05, remains in the hospital but Cameron Fine, CC '06, and Christopher Gary, CC '06, are being discharged today.

Support services and counseling are being provided throughout the weekend through the University Health Services (432-0290) and the University Chaplain's Office (432-8860). Masters and deans of the residential colleges continue to be available to meet with members of the community. Yale College students who live off-campus are invited to dine free of charge in their own residential college dining hall through Monday night.

A separate email on memorial services will be sent as we are informed.

Updates will be provided at <u>www.yale.edu/opa</u> as further information becomes available.

I know I speak for all of us when I express my profound grief and sadness at these tragic events and pray for the injured to make a full and speedy recovery.

Linda Koch Lorimer Secretary of the University

### Also see:

- Memorial Funds
- Information on Counseling
- Blood Drive February 2
- Memorial Service Information Dean Brodhead
- News Articles about the Accident

[Return to OPA Home ]

### **Tragic Accident of 17 January 2003**

USA Today February 5, 2003, Wednesday, First Edition SECTION: SPORTS; Pg. 10C BYLINE: Olivia Barker DATELINE: NEW HAVEN, Conn.

# NEW HAVEN, Conn. -- The tributes have been understated but constant.

Calls from Whitey Herzog, the former major league manager, and Kenny Macha, the Oakland A's new manager. Emails from Bulldog players who graduated back in the '70s. A crimson Louisville Slugger, signed in silver ink by members of this year's Harvard baseball team and dedicated, in wobbly print, to the "memory of Kyle and Nick." It's been more than two weeks since sophomore Yale pitchers Kyle Burnat and Nick Grass, along with two of their fraternity brothers, perished in a pre-dawn car accident along Interstate 95 in Fairfield, Conn., about 20 miles south of this Ivy League campus.

Heading back from a pledge event in New York, five other members of Delta Kappa Epsilon, including sophomore infielder Zac Bradley, were injured. Two remain hospitalized. The brothers' Chevy Tahoe slammed into a jackknifed tractor trailer. Officials are blaming icy road conditions, coupled with the failure of a mile-long stretch of highway lights.

A week after the accident, two bouquets of flowers, weathered to the color of concrete, lay atop the I-95 median just before Exit 24, at the site of the tragedy, their ribbons and plastic sheaths fluttering in the wind.

It goes almost without saying that a student death is devastating at any college. But at a place like Yale, a school of 5,200 undergraduates where the administrators consider themselves aunts and uncles and take seriously the ministry component of their job titles, loss is palpable. Particularly now.

"Every tragedy is horrific and indelibly imprinted on your mind," says Linda Lorimer, Yale's vice president and secretary. "But losing so many students at one time, this puts it in a class by itself."

Community response has been tremendous, and diverse. Yale is the kind of school where Phi Beta Kappa biochemistry major jocks aren't uncommon, where athletes aren't the untouchable superstars of the elite conferences. More than 20 people spoke extemporaneously at the memorial service for Sean Fenton, a football player turned computer whiz, "from big, strapping football players to a little string-bean computer guy with thick glasses," says Harvey Goldblatt, a master of one of the university's 12 residential colleges, smiling at the memory.

For baseball coach John Stuper, a former pitcher for the Cardinals and the Reds, that first week was one of hospital visits, memorial services and funerals, from Atlanta to Holyoke, Mass. "I'm used to saying goodbye to players after four years," he says. "I'm not used to having them leave in the middle of their sophomore year."

Life only started to inch back to normal last Saturday, the first day of baseball practice. Stuper, a.k.a. Stupe, made a point of starting on schedule, his squad -- now 25 strong -- hitting balls inside Cox Cage. This season, Stuper's 11th, "Cox Cage will be a refuge for all of us," he says.

This spring will be dedicated to the memory of Burnat and Grass, and there's talk of affixing their numbers, 36 and 19, respectively, to the teams' jerseys.

But for right now, Burnat and Grass are still very visible. Their profiles remain on the Bulldog baseball Web site. Stuper predicts that Burnat "could be a valuable asset." He gushes that Grass's "stuff is excellent," that "he will be a big winner for us."

At Grass's funeral, in front of nearly 1,100 friends and family, Stuper lamented the hole in his roster and the one in his pitching staff. But "the largest hole of all," he said, "resides right here in my heart."

#### Also see:

- <u>An Updated Message to the Yale Community</u> Secretary Lorimer
- Memorial Funds
- Information on Counseling
- Blood Drive February 2
- Memorial Service Information Dean Brodhead
- News Articles about the Accident

[ Return to OPA Home ]

You are about to print an article from www.yaledailynews.com.

Go back to article: One week later, beginning to heal

#### THE NEWS' VIEW

### Published Friday, January 24, 2003 One week later, beginning to heal

Now suddenly, as if much too soon, it is Friday again.

A week's distance from the early morning car accident that killed four Yalies, injured five of their friends, and left the campus worn and bleary brings with it something in the way of comfort -- but little of what might be called relief.

It began with dawn seven days ago, when most of us were sleeping. Since then we have witnessed tragedy and recovery, collapsed into tears and ourselves, and come together to ease, as best we could, out of what might be the longest weekend Yale has seen.

This week has been filled with remarkable warmth and quiet generosity, though -- from the outside world to a University turned inward, focused on caring for its aching own. The flowers came first, piling on the doorsteps of the Delta Kappa Epsilon house, sent by students and parents and people who had seen the broken Chevrolet Tahoe and the icy interstate on television. Then came diligent e-mail updates from masters and deans; notes and letters and baseball bats of support from other universities; and, of course, the airplane tickets to memorial services handed out to overwhelmed classmates and grieving friends.

Then came the stories, the countless memories that became part of speeches and eulogies throughout the week. Andrew Dwyer '05, Kyle Burnat '05, Sean Fenton '04 and Nicholas Grass '05 very abruptly became the center of our lives, the idyllic, characteristic Yale men we no longer have the chance to walk by on Cross Campus, read about on the sports pages, or call for help on a problem set. You may not have known them last week. You know them now.

And now it is Friday again: another frozen morning in what has been a relentless January. Today we are a week removed and busy, occupied mercifully with classes and the end of shopping period. In a way, Yale hums as it always has, but in truth the anxiety lingers: People you eat with in the dining hall should not vanish; someone who is 19 or 20 years old is not supposed to die. There is still a sense that a grave and arbitrary injustice has been done. But meanwhile, the flag hangs at half-mast on Beinecke plaza and another weekend begins. We are edging back toward the ordinary and continuing, ever so gradually, to heal.

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### The New Hork Times

nytimes.com

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January 25, 2003

# Fatal Crash Is Linked to Slick Road With No Light

### By DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

**B** RIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 24 — Icy road conditions and the failure of a mile-long string of highway lights were crucial factors in a chain-reaction crash last week on Interstate 95 in Fairfield, Conn., that killed four Yale students, federal and state investigators said today.

At a news conference here, David S. Rayburn, the lead investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, said a preliminary inquiry suggested that the lighting failure and slick roadway were a deadly combination on a curved portion of highway where numerous fatal accidents have occurred in recent years.

"It was very dark and it was difficult to see," Mr. Rayburn said. "It was difficult to see the weather conditions." He said initial toxicology results indicated that none of the four drivers in the crash were impaired by alcohol or drugs. None of the vehicles had been traveling at excessive speed, he said.

Mr. Rayburn said at least some of the lights had been knocked out by a construction mishap on a nearby bridge about three hours before the accident. Ordered to stop work because of the bad weather, a construction crew accidentally knocked over a light pole while trying to stow an excavator.

The fatal crash occurred shortly after 5 a.m. on Jan. 17. It began when a truck driver traveling north lost control of his tractor-trailer, which jackknifed, crashing over the median and into the southbound lanes, where it was hit by another tractor-trailer and a Dodge Avenger.

A portion of the trailer remained jutting into the left northbound lane. Ten minutes later, with the highway lights out and snow falling, a Chevy Tahoe sport utility vehicle carrying nine Yale students back to New Haven from a fraternity outing in Manhattan slammed into the steel flatbed trailer.

The accident happened near Exit 24, in an area where a taller concrete median is being installed. But officials said even the new median probably could not have prevented the truck from crashing over the barrier.

Mr. Rayburn said that investigators had interviewed Armando Salgado, 33, the truck driver who first lost control, for three hours. Mr. Salgado, who was driving a rig for Arrow Trucking of Tulsa, Okla., reported that he skidded on black ice while traveling about 50 miles per hour.

The second tractor trailer in the accident had been traveling at 59 m.p.h., Mr. Rayburn said. And data from the Chevy Tahoe's airbag system indicated it also had not traveled excessively fast.

"The factual evaluation indicates that the Tahoe was not grossly exceeding the speed limit," Mr. Rayburn said. The posted limit in the area was 45 m.p.h. because of the nearby construction.

"There have been a lot of rumors that the students were flying at grossly excessive speeds," Mr. Rayburn said, dismissing them. "The excessive damage to the vehicle was the result of the vehicle striking a steel structure with its softer components."

But the S.U.V. was overcrowded. It was designed to carry five passengers, Mr. Rayburn said, but nine were crammed in. It remains unclear, however, whether the crowding aggravated the injuries. Most of the students were asleep at the time of the crash, Mr. Rayburn said.

The driver of the S.U.V., Sean R. Fenton, 20, and his front-seat passenger, both of whom died, had been wearing their seat belts, Mr. Rayburn said, as had the two truck drivers.

Mr. Rayburn said the log from Mr. Salgado's truck showed that he got seven hours of sleep not long before the accident. Mr. Salgado's company, Arrow Trucking, had a good safety record, 0.36 accidents per million miles, Mr. Rayburn said. A rate of up to 1.5 accidents per million miles is considered satisfactory, he said.

The state police and the safety board, which sent a team of nine field investigators to Connecticut, said that it would take three to four months before the inquiry was completed.

Officials said the malfunctioning lights may have been a factor in another accident about an hour before the fatal crash. State police noted in a report filed just after that accident that the lights were out, but it was unclear whether the state Department of Transportation took immediate note of the problem. Construction crews restored the lights later that morning.

Sgt. Paul Vance, a spokesman for the state police, said troopers routinely notify the Transportation Department about such problems. But Mr. Rayburn said the protocol for addressing light failures was unclear.

Robert B. Adelman, a lawyer hired by Mr. Fenton's family, said the initial investigation showed Mr. Fenton had done no wrong. "He was the designated driver; he was not drinking," Mr. Adelman said. "The lights were out on the trailer. The lights were out on the road."

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# Archive

The New York Times



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President Bush Addresses the 51st Annual Prayer Breakfast

Page 1 of 2

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For Immediate Release Office of the Press Secretary February 6, 2003

# President Bush Addresses the 51st Annual Prayer Breakfast

Remarks by the President at the National Prayer Breakfast The Washington Hilton Washington, D.C.



VIDEO Multimedia President's Remarks II <u>view</u> II listen

8:11 A.M. EST

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resident George W. Bush

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for that warm welcome. Great introduction. (Laughter.) Especially since you mentioned Laura. (Laughter.) I want to thank the Speaker and Leader Pelosi. Ray, I want to thank you very much for being the chairman of the National Prayer Breakfast. I was wondering why the Grace Singers from Peoria managed to get here. (Laughter.) But I'm sure glad they did. (Applause.) It might have been the best decision you made, Mr. Chairman. (Laughter.)

I want to welcome Michael W. Smith and his wife here. Michael W. is going to have dinner at the White House tonight. We look forward to seeing you both. They've been great friends of Laura and me and my family. It is a treat to have him here, to lend his God-given talents to this important breakfast.

I appreciate the fact that Tenet and Myers will be up here at the head table. It is fitting that in the midst of tough times that these two leaders are sharing with scripture and prayer with the country. I appreciate all the members of Congress here. I pray for your wisdom on a daily basis. (Laughter and applause.)

I want to thank all the members of my Cabinet who are here. I really appreciate leaders from around the globe who have come to share in prayer with us today. It reminds me that the Almighty God is a God to everybody, every person.

I really am so honored that Dr. Condoleezza Rice is going to share some comments with you. I know this; that the Reverend John W. Rice, Jr. would be incredibly proud of his wise and gracious daughter. (Applause.)



It is fitting that we have a National Prayer Breakfast. It is the right thing to do, because this is a nation of prayer. I know, from firsthand knowledge, that this is a nation of prayer. See, I work the ropelines a lot, and I hear all kinds of things on the ropelines. But the thing I hear the most, the comment I hear the most from our fellow citizens, regardless of their political party or philosophy, is, Mr. President, I pray for you and your family, and so does my family. That's what I hear. I turn to them without hesitation and say, it is the greatest gift you can give anybody, is to pray on their behalf.

I especially feel that because I believe in prayer. I pray. I pray for strength, I pray for guidance, I pray for forgiveness. And I pray to offer my thanks for a kind and generous Almighty God.

As Dick mentioned, we mourn the loss of seven brave souls. We learned a lot about them over the

last couple of days, and Laura and I learned a lot about their families in Houston, because we met with them. My impressions of the meeting was that there was -- that Almighty God was present in their hearts. There was such incredible strength in the room of those who were grieving that it was overwhelming, to be with those who just lost their husband or wife or dad or mom, and to feel the presence of the Almighty. I attribute it to the fact that they, themselves, are in prayer. And our country prays for their strength. And we must continue to pray for those who suffer and those who grieve.

This is a testing time for our country. At this hour we have troops that are assembling in the Middle East. There's oppressive regimes that seek terrible weapons. We face an ongoing threat of terror. One thing is for certain: we didn't ask for these challenges, but we will meet them. I say that with certainty, because this nation has strong foundations that won't be shaken.

As America passes through this decisive period, there are things we can count on. We can be confident in the character of the American people. The months since September the 11th, 2001,

have not brought fear and fatigue or rash anger. Instead we've witnessed courage and resolve and calm purpose. We've seen that a new generation of Americans is strong and steadfast in the face of danger, and our confidence will not be shaken. (Applause.)

We can be confident in America's cause in the world. Our nation is dedicated to the equal and undeniable worth of every person. We don't own the ideals of freedom and human dignity, and sometimes we haven't always lived up to them. But we do stand for those ideals, and we will defend them.

We believe, as Franklin Roosevelt said, that men and women born to freedom in the image of God will not forever suffer the oppressor's sword. We are confident that people in every part of the world wish for freedom, not tyranny; or for peace to terror and violence. And our confidence will not be shaken.

We can also be confident in the ways of Providence, even when they are far from our understanding. Events aren't moved by blind change and chance. Behind all of life and all of history, there's a dedication and purpose, set by the hand of a just and faithful God. And that hope will never be shaken.

In this hour of our country's history, we stand in the need of prayer. We pray for the families that have known recent loss. We pray for the men and women who serve around the world to defend our freedom. We pray for their families. We pray for wisdom to know and do what is right. And we pray for God's peace in the affairs of men.

May God bless you all. (Applause.)

END 8:20 A.M. EST

#### Return to this article at:

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President Addresses Nation on Space Shuttle Columbia Tragedy

Page 1 of 2

Sile . H t George W. Rush

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For Immediate Release Office of the Press Secretary February 1, 2003

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### President Addresses Nation on Space Shuttle Columbia Tragedy

Remarks by the President on the Loss of Space Shuttle Columbia The Cabinet Room



President's Remarks 目 <u>view</u> 덕 listen

2:04 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: My fellow Americans, this day has brought terrible news and great sadness to our country. At 9:00 a.m. this morning, Mission Control in Houston lost contact with our Space Shuttle Columbia. A short time later, debris was seen falling from the skies above Texas. The Columbia is lost; there are no survivors.

On board was a crew of seven: Colonel Rick Husband; Lt. Colonel Michael Anderson; Commander Laurel Clark; Captain David Brown; Commander William McCool; Dr. Kalpana Chawla; and Ilan Ramon, a Colonel in the 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.

END 2:08 P.M. EST

### Return to this article at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030201-2.html





President Bush Attends Memorial Service for Columbia Astronauts

Page 1 of 3

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For Immediate Release Office of the Press Secretary February 4, 2003

VIDEO Multimedia

### President Bush Attends Memorial Service for Columbia Astronauts

Remarks by the President at the Memorial Service in Honor of the STS-107 Crew, Space Shuttle Columbia National Aeronautics and Space Administration Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Houston, Texas



President's Remarks

12:35 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Their mission was almost complete, and we lost them so close to home. The men and women of the Columbia had journeyed more than 6 million miles and were minutes away from arrival and reunion.

The loss was sudden and terrible, and for their families, the grief is heavy. Our nation shares in your sorrow and in your pride. And today we remember not only one moment of tragedy, but seven lives of great purpose and achievement.

To leave behind Earth and air and gravity is an ancient dream of humanity. For these seven, it was a dream fulfilled. Each of these astronauts had the daring and discipline required of their calling. Each of them knew that great endeavors are inseparable from great risks. And each of them accepted those risks willingly, even joyfully, in the cause of discovery.

Rick Husband was a boy of four when he first thought of being an astronaut. As a man, and having become an astronaut, he found it was even more important to love his family and serve his Lord. One of Rick's favorite hymns was, "How Great Thou Art," which offers these words of praise: "I see the stars. I hear the mighty thunder. Thy power throughout the universe displayed."

David Brown was first drawn to the stars as a little boy with a telescope in his back yard. He admired astronauts, but, as he said, "I thought they were movie stars. I thought I was



kind of a normal kid." David grew up to be a physician, an aviator who could land on the deck of a carrier in the middle of the night, and a shuttle astronaut.

His brother asked him several weeks ago what would happen if something went wrong on their mission. David replied, "This program will go on."

Michael Anderson always wanted to fly planes, and rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel in the Air Force. Along the way, he became a role model -- especially for his two daughters and for the many children he spoke to in schools. He said to them, "Whatever you want to be in life, you're training for it now." He also told his minister, "If this thing doesn't come out right, don't worry about me, I'm just going on higher." Laurel Salton Clark was a physician and a flight surgeon who loved adventure, loved her work, loved her husband and her son. A friend who heard Laurel speaking to Mission Control said, "There was a smile in her voice."

Laurel conducted some of the experiments as Columbia orbited the Earth, and described seeing new life emerge from a tiny cocoon. "Life," she said, "continues in a lot of places, and life is a magical thing."

None of our astronauts traveled a longer path to space than Kalpana Chawla. She left India as a student, but she would see the nation of her birth, all of it, from hundreds of miles above. When the sad news reached her home town, an administrator at her high school recalled, "She always said she wanted to reach the stars. She went there, and beyond." Kalpana's native country mourns her today, and so does her adopted land.

Ilan Ramon also flew above his home, the land of Israel. He

said, "The quiet that envelopes space makes the beauty even more powerful. And I only hope that the quiet can one day spread to my country." Ilan was a patriot; the devoted son of a holocaust survivor, served his country in two wars. "Ilan," said his wife, Rona, "left us at his peak moment, in his favorite place, with people he loved."

The Columbia's pilot was Commander Willie McCool, whom friends knew as the most steady and dependable of men. In Lubbock today they're thinking back to the Eagle Scout who became a distinguished Naval officer and a fearless test pilot. One friend remembers Willie this way: "He was blessed, and we were blessed to know him."

Our whole nation was blessed to have such men and women serving in our space program. Their loss is deeply felt, especially in this place, where so many of you called them friends. The people of NASA are being tested once again. In your grief, you are responding as your friends would have wished -- with focus, professionalism, and unbroken faith in the mission of this agency.

Captain Brown was correct: America's space program will go on.

This cause of exploration and discovery is not an option we choose; it is a desire written in the human heart. We are that part of creation which seeks to understand all creation. We find the best among us, send them forth into unmapped darkness, and pray they will return. They go in peace for all mankind, and all mankind is in their debt.

Yet, some explorers do not return. And the loss settles

unfairly on a few. The families here today shared in the courage of those they loved. But now they must face life and grief without them. The sorrow is lonely; but you are not alone. In time, you will find comfort and the grace to see you through. And in God's own time, we can pray that the day of your reunion will come.

And to the children who miss your Mom or Dad so much today, you need to know, they love you, and that love will always be with you. They were proud of you. And you can be proud of them for the rest of your life.







The final days of their own lives were spent looking down upon this Earth. And now, on every continent, in every land they could see, the names of these astronauts are known and remembered. They will always have an honored place in the memory of this country. And today I offer the respect and gratitude of the people of the United States.

May God bless you all.

END 12:44 P.M. CST

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I send greetings to those gathered at Delta Kappa Epsilon at Yale in remembrance of Kyle Burnat, Sean Fenton, Nick Grass, and Andrew Dwyer. Laura and I are saddened by your loss and send our heartfelt condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Today, you remember not only one moment of tragedy, but four lives of great promise. I hope you will take comfort in their memory, in the support of your families, and in the brotherhood that you share.

May God bless you and grant you comfort, strength, and courage during this difficult time.

GWB/(>>)/dv (Corres. #2682039) ((>>)) cc: Misty Marshall, Pres. Msgs., 9th Floor, 1800 G Street cc: Heidi Marquez, Pres. Corr., 9th Floor, 1800 G Street cc: Daniel Vogel, Pres. Writers, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1800 G Street

SENT TO: (>>) Delta Kappa Epsilon International

http://www.dke.org/history.html



# DKE HISTORY

Each year at Yale University during the 1840's, certain members of the sophomore class were elected to two junior societies, Alpha Delta Phi and Psi Upsilon. In the spring of 1844, due to undergraduate politics and a division in the sophomore class, a number of men of high character and scholastic attainment did not receive bids from the two societies. So unfair, in fact, were the selections that some men who did receive bids promptly rejected them.

On Saturday, June 22, 1844, fifteen Yale sophomores, rejecting the status quo, met and formed a new junior society which they called Delta Kappa Epsilon. Very quickly DKE became more than just another junior society. Its predecessors' criterion of academic distinction, while still highly respected, was expanded to include the qualities of good fellowship and compatible tastes and interests and thus attracted a wider range of prospective members. More fraternal than its rival societies, DKE proceeded to recruit men who combine "in equal proportions the gentleman, the scholar, and the jolly good fellow" -- criteria which have remained unchanged to this day.

We are proud of our fraternity and the more than 70,000 men who have become our brothers since DKE was founded in 1844. Dekes come from every walk of life. Many have gone on to distinguish themselves in politics, the arts, sciences, sports, education, and the humanities. Four U.S. Presidents have been Dekes, the most of any fraternity. The first man to reach the North Pole was a Deke and a Deke has carried our flag to the moon. In every corner of the world you will meet fellow Dekes, but whatever their background or station in life, all are united by the shared experience of membership in DKE.

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Brother Theodore Roosevelt (Alpha Har





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