

## THE FATAL MISSION

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# FLORIDA TODAY

PUBLISHED IN BREVARD COUNTY

## TRAGEDY IN SPACE

13 PAGES OF  
STORIES, PICTURES  
AND COMMENTARY  
IN THIS EDITION

# Explosion stuns nation

WEDNESDAY, January 29, 1986

## HEADLINES

### IN SPACE

**NEXT MISSION** April 24 from Complex 36, Atlas Centaur carrying military satellite.

### WEATHER

**TODAY'S WEATHER:** Fair, warmer; high in mid- to upper 60s. Weather, 16A.

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**ARCTIC FRONT** spares most of the state's citrus industry, but vegetable growers scramble to save their crops, 1B.

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**SHUTTLE DISASTER:** Roundup of Challenger's ill-fated mission, including the mood in Houston, Concord, N.H., and Cape Canaveral; students witness blast; a look at the space program; the final hours of the mission and its members; President Reagan cancels State of Union speech. A section, USA TODAY.

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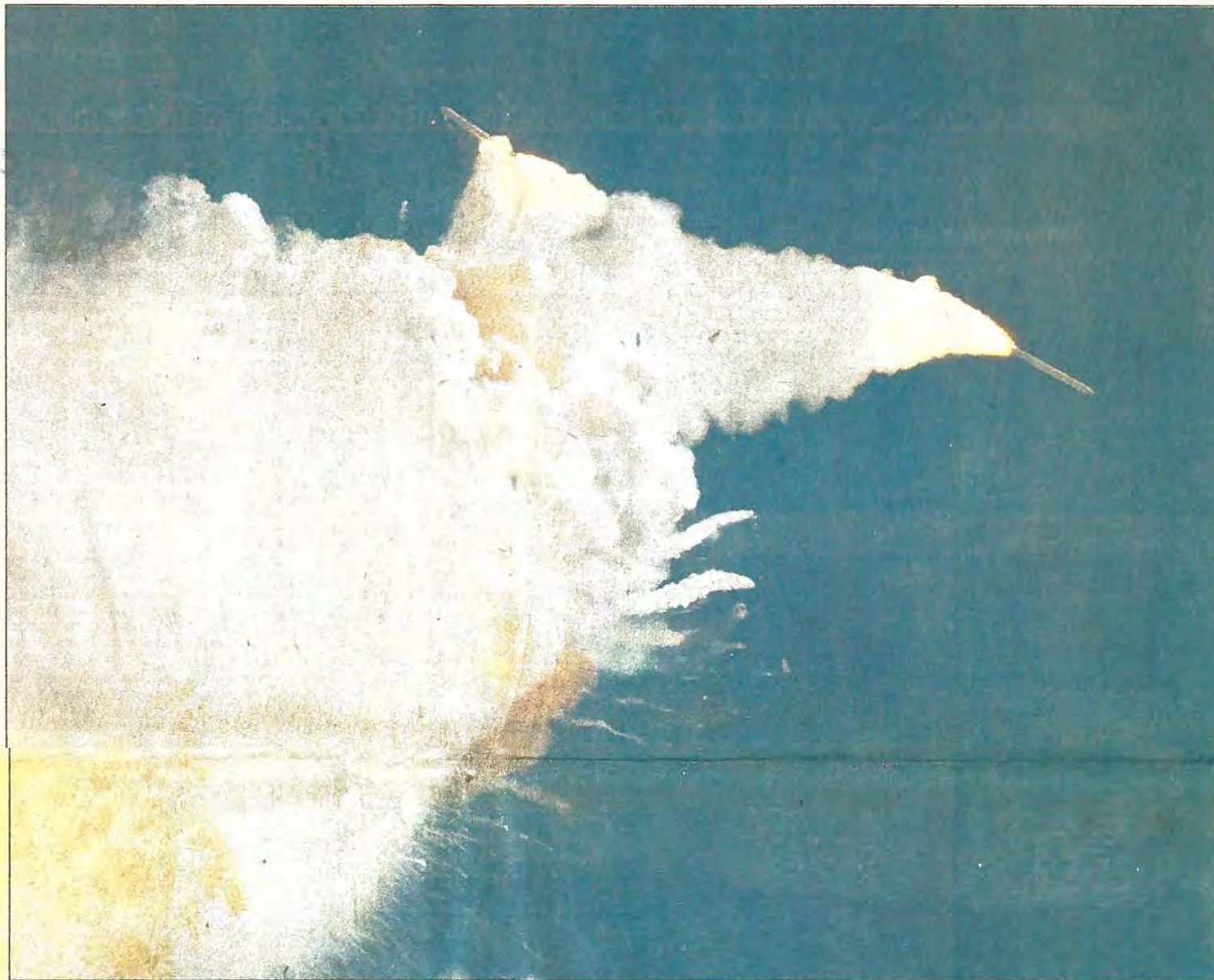
### TODAY'S CHUCKLE

People go on vacation to forget things, and when they open up their bags, they find out they did.

### PAGE ONE SPOTLIGHT

#### Pam Peters

- **Occupation:** President of the Melbourne branch of the American Association of University Women.
- **Favorite college:** "University of Michigan, my alma mater."
- **Hardest college course:** Calculus. "I had an instructor who barely spoke English, and the topic is Greek, anyway."
- **Secret ambition:** "To be employed as an advertising artist."
- **Admires:** Mary Cassat, an American artist during the Impressionist period who gained respect in France when women generally were not respected.



Michael R. Brown, FLORIDA TODAY

**DISASTROUS MISSION:** As Challenger explodes about 1½ minutes after launch, the rocket boosters are propelled to either side in NASA's worst tragedy.

## 'Oh no! Oh God!': Seven die in fiery blast

### Candidates for mission reel in shock

By Hanna Lea Lindsey  
FLORIDA TODAY

Seconds after watching the Shuttle explode in midair, Judith Kinlock's fourth-grade students at Golfview Elementary in Rockledge grabbed at her skirt, crying, and said, "We're glad you're with us."

The children knew it could have been their teacher aboard that Shuttle.

Kinlock is one of about 20 Brevard teachers who applied to be the first teacher sent into space aboard the Shuttle.

"All day long, other teachers at the school have come up to me, hugged me and said, 'We're glad you're with us,'" Kinlock said. "But I told everyone that I'd do it again, I'd apply again, if I had it to do over. One of the first things that occurred to me is that Christa (McAuliffe) had small children and that I have none. Had it been me, it would have been easier on my family."

Kinlock said she spent most of the day talking to the children about disasters of the past "and how there were patriots who died for America . . . The children had a good cry. They're all staying very close to me today."

"I know that, as a teacher, Christa did what she wanted to do and she died doing her job. Christa went up there for all of us, and we knew that. We're very proud of her. Christa was a patriot."

Ginger Davis, a teacher of gifted students at Roosevelt School in Cocoa Beach, said she felt jealousy Monday night as she watched newscasters dis-



FLORIDA TODAY—UPI

**GRIEVING PARENTS:** Shock registers on the faces of guest astronaut Christa McAuliffe's parents, Grace and Edward Corrigan, after Challenger explodes moments after liftoff.

cussing McAuliffe's pending flight.

"Now I just really empathize with her family," Davis said. "I guess she did what a good teacher had to do. I just kept thinking about my grandmother, who said she didn't want me to be chosen because she'd never get any rest while I was up there."

Davis said her class is still "numb" from the experience. "My students had all been saying how disappointed they were I wasn't chosen. But now they say they're so glad. Our insides

are quivering and our eyes are just glued to the TV screen. Some students even skipped lunch so they could watch the TV reports. It really affected them."

Joan Holliday, a teacher at Gemini Elementary in Melbourne Beach, said "anyone who applied (to be the first teacher in space) is extremely shook up. I think a little piece of all of us who filled out the form died, too."

"But if you applied, the thought probably went through your mind that something might happen. It's something you have

to consider."

Peggy Ashley, a teacher at Satellite High, said she was "really stunned" to hear of the tragedy.

"I wondered why I was not selected," Ashley said. "Now I just feel like someone was watching out for me. I just bowed my head. And I have to feel it's the Lord's work."

Randy Wilber, a Titusville High teacher who also applied to the program, said "it did go through my head when I heard about what happened that it could have been me up there."

By Chet Lunner  
FLORIDA TODAY

All they found early Tuesday was an empty parachute, a ghostly marker floating in 10-foot seas 20 miles from the launch pad.

By Tuesday night, several "small chunks" of the Space Shuttle Challenger had been found in the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Canaveral, but officials said there were no signs of the seven crew members.

A nation that had cheered "the magnificent flying machine" as it roared off its launch pad Tuesday morning fell into mourning.

"Oh no! Oh God! I can't look," spectators cried, as the 100-ton Orbiter disintegrated in a giant ball of smoke and flame that scarred the cloudless sky above Kennedy Space Center.

"There has been an explosion," Mission Control announced from Houston. The Shuttle is fueled by 500,000 gallons of volatile liquid hydrogen and oxygen.

Space center regulars, usually the picture of "Right Stuff" stoicism, were stunned, then tearful, as the magnitude of the tragedy sunk in. Thousands of reporters rushed to the site of America's worst space tragedy, the first fatalities in the Shuttle program.

NASA managers immediately impounded all evidence concerning the tragic flight, named an investigation board and suspended the Shuttle program until Tuesday's events can be understood.

"We will not speculate on the specific cause," Jesse Moore, head of NASA's Shuttle program told reporters Tuesday afternoon. As he gravely fielded questions near the viewing stands four miles from the launch pad, Moore was framed

See TRAGEDY, Next Page



# THE 25TH SHUTTLE: A SPACE TRAGEDY

## Seven heroes die in fiery explosion

### TRAGEDY, From 1A

by NASA's familiar oversized countdown clock and a flagpole.

Its American flag was at half-staff.

"All of the people involved in this program felt that Challenger was ready to go," Moore said. "All early indicators have indicated that the launch was normal until about a minute or so into the flight."

President Reagan echoed Moore's somber tone in a nationwide television appearance later in the day. "It is truly a national loss," he said. "We mourn seven heroes. We mourn their loss as a nation together."

Aboard the flight, NASA's 25th Shuttle launch:

Commander Francis R. "Dick" Scobee, of Washington state; pilot Michael J. Smith, North Carolina; mission specialists Ellison Onizuka, Hawaii; Ronald McNair, South Carolina; and Judith Resnik, Ohio.

Hughes Aircraft Co. had Gregory Jarvis, a Detroit native, as a payload specialist, aboard. But the crew member who had captured America's imagination was teach-

er-in-space Christa McAuliffe, a Concord, N.H., high school teacher flying as the nation's first ordinary citizen in space.

Launch pad workers had handed her an apple as she climbed into the Shuttle, and thousands of schoolchildren nationwide watched the liftoff that NASA had scheduled for maximum school participation. McAuliffe was to have taught two classes from space.

In a poignant aside, the president addressed the children who may have seen the Shuttle explode.

"I know it's hard to understand, but sometimes painful things like this happen," Reagan said.

Vice President George Bush headed a contingent dispatched to Kennedy by Reagan to comfort the crew's family members, who were sequestered in the crew quarters at Kennedy after the explosion.

Bush was joined by Sens. Jake Garn, R-Utah, and John Glenn, D-Ohio, both of whom have flown in space. Glenn is a former astronaut. Garn flew aboard an April 1984 Shuttle mission as NASA's first congressional observer.

U.S. Rep. Bill Nelson had followed Garn's precedent last month, but McAuliffe was the first

private citizen to join a crew.

She had won out over 11,000 teachers in a nationwide competition for the honor.

Tuesday's launch had resisted NASA's efforts for six days. Three times the launch was canceled when weather was unfavorable, either at KSC or at NASA's trans-Atlantic emergency landing sites.

The Shuttle thundered aloft at 11:38 a.m., after two hours of delays caused by subfreezing conditions that had encrusted the launch pad with icicles.

The day before, ground crews had used up the available launch time removing a stubborn fastener from a door handle on the outside of the crew hatch.

Once in orbit, Challenger's crew was to have deployed two satellites — a \$100 million relay station for NASA's use and a satellite to take measurements of Halley's comet.

Moore was asked whether the Shuttle may be too complicated a machine upon which to build America's future space efforts.

"That question, I'm sure, will be asked," Moore replied. "I don't want to speculate on that at this point in time, but it's certainly a logical question for somebody to ask."



FLORIDA TODAY — UPI

**PRESS CONFERENCE:** Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, and Vice President George Bush speak at KSC press conference. Both agreed the space program must continue.

## Space exploration must continue to honor astronauts, Bush says

By Phil Williams  
FLORIDA TODAY

Vice President George Bush flew to Kennedy Space Center late Tuesday to visit with family members of the dead Space Shuttle astronauts and confer with NASA officials investigating the tragedy.

A teary-eyed Bush, accompanied by U.S. Sens. Jake Garn, R-Utah, and John Glenn, D-Ohio, said that the nation's reaction to the death of the seven crew members must be renewed dedication to continuing the space program.

"We must be as they were — great in spirit, great in courage and great in dedication to the adventure of which they were so much a part," Bush said.

"We must resolve that, like America's pioneers of the past, others will follow, others will explore, others will risk as these seven great Americans risked today."

Arriving at the KSC landing site at about 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Bush spent just over two hours meeting with members of the press, talking with the families of the crew members and conferring with NASA officials.

Bush spent about 20 minutes in family quarters at the space cen-

ter, talking individually with the family of each crew member who perished, according to NASA officials. There were about 25 relatives present.

From there, Bush traveled to the KSC Launch Control Center where NASA officials are trying to determine what caused Challenger to explode shortly after takeoff.

Details of his conversation were not released.

"The President and I and the entire nation join in mourning these seven splendid men and women who now rest in God's arms," Bush said in a statement.

"Today's tragedy reminds us that danger awaits all who push back the frontier of space. It reminds us that the great adventure of space travel requires men and women of spirit and bravery."

Bush also offered words of encouragement to the nation's schoolchildren and especially to the children of Concord, N.H. — the home of teacher Christa McAuliffe, the first private citizen to fly aboard the Space Shuttle.

"You must try to understand that spirit, bravery and commitment are what make not only the space program but all of life worthwhile," Bush said.

"We must never, as people in

our daily lives or as a nation, stop exploring, stop hoping, stop discovering. We must press on."

Those views were echoed by Glenn, one of the original seven U.S. astronauts and the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962.

"It's been nearly a quarter of a century that we thought this might happen sometime. But we have delayed that day until today," said Glenn — his eyes moist and voice cracking.

"We hoped that this day would never come. But unfortunately it has, and with a tragedy all Americans share together."

The former astronaut said that the country must not forget that no lives have been lost in 56 flights into space with crew aboard. Some relatives of the seven crew members who died had told NASA officials that the accident should not endanger the space program, Glenn said.

Garn said he joined the rest of the country in its sorrow. "It has been a very difficult day for me personally because I knew each of them," said Garn. He became the first politician to fly into space last year.

The two senators accompanied the vice president aboard a flight from Washington, D.C.

### FLORIDA TODAY

Established March 21, 1966,  
by Gannett Co. Inc.

Allen H. Neuhaith  
Chairman

Vol. 20, No. 308  
Wednesday, Jan. 29, 1986  
Published mornings and Sunday  
by Cape Publications Inc.,  
308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, Fla.  
32922.

Frank Vega, Publisher  
& Chief Executive Officer  
Vince Spezzano,  
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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** (per week)  
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3x5 Persian Yalameh.....	975	690	6x9 Super Chinese.....	1790	975	8x10 Paki Bokarra.....	2150	1050	9x12 Super Chinese.....	3450	1750	10x13 Persian Tabriz.....	9200	5400	10x16 Per. Nain Silk & Wool.....	19,500	12,150
3x5 Fine Silk Chinese.....	1050	695	6x9 Paki Bokarra.....	1450	895	8x10 Chinese Super.....	2450	1350	9x12 Antique Heriz.....	10,500	6200	10x14 Persian Kasvin.....	9150	5250	12x18 Semi-ant. Persian Sarouk.....	17,000	11,500
4x6 Paki Bokarra.....	765	415	6x9 Paki Kashan.....	3950	2275	8x10 Semi-ant. Sarouk.....	3900	3950	9x12 Peking Chinese.....	2950	1800	10x14 Eslahan.....	8900	5400	12x21 Semi-ant. Persian Kerman.....	14,650	9700
4x6 Paki Tabriz.....	1450	925	6x9 Persian Yalameh.....	3650	2250	8x9 Semi-ant. Sarouk.....	3950	2250	9x12 Persian Kerman.....	7950	4950	10x14 Antique Chinese.....	7900	4250	10x20 Semi-ant. Persian Heriz.....	14,500	9490
4x7 Persian Kerman.....	1750	975	6x10 Semi-ant. Heriz.....	4500	2650	8x10 Rom. Kashan.....	2290	1250	9x12 Antique Oushak.....	8250	4900	10x14 Super Chinese.....	6950	2690	11x17 Semi-ant. Persian Mahal.....	11,500	7400
4x6 Kashmir Silk.....	2100	1150	6x10 Antique Shiraz.....	4900	2790	8x10 Fine Chinese.....	2950	1590	9x12 Indo-Tabriz.....	2950	1960	10x14 Rom. Serapi.....	3940	2610	12x18 Indo Kashan.....	10,500	6590
4x6 Antique Heriz.....	2500	1490	7x10 Semi-ant. Mashad.....	5600	3250	8x10 Persian Nain.....	11,500	7250	9x12 Rom. Kashan.....	2850	1790	10x14 Semi-ant. Persian Mahal.....	5200	2150	12x18 Indo Heriz.....	6,350	5290
4x6 Antique Kazar.....	3700	1650	6x10 Persian Nain.....	9900	6200	8x10 Semi-ant. Heriz.....	4500	3750	9x12 Indo-Aubosson.....	2250	1190	10x14 Indo-Aubosson.....	3450	2090	12x15 Rom. Kashan.....	5,950	4210

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