

# World and Nation

Respect shown with vigils, silence

## Americans mourn loss of crew

**Associated Press**  
 "Why did all these good people have to die? Why now? Why them?" The unanswerable questions of a 10-year-old Minneapolis schoolgirl reflected the anguish of a nation Wednesday as families, friends and admirers grieved for the seven victims aboard the shuttle Challenger.

Wall Street tickers briefly halted and flags fluttered at half staff. Radio stations, schools and legislatures observed moments of silence. And bells rang on campuses such as Texas A&M throughout the nation.

At the White House, President Reagan pledged to continue the space program, then turned to the sad task of telephoning families of

the victims to offer his condolences. Fifth- and sixth-graders at Barton Open School in Minneapolis had listened to the launch over the classroom loudspeakers, and heard the horrified reaction of spectators at Kennedy Space Center.

Ten-year-old Liza Moscovice said, "I couldn't believe it. It seemed unreal. I could hear the screams of agony over the loudspeaker, the crying and moaning . . . I could feel what they must have been feeling. It was terrible."

"Why did all these good people have to die? Why now? Why them? It was like a nightmare come true."

Residents of Illinois and Evansville, Ind., were urged to turn

on their porch lights for 12 hours starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday to honor the Challenger crew.

The porch-light vigil originally was intended to honor McAuliffe as part of a nationwide effort promoted by state school superintendents. It was to have taken place on the eve of McAuliffe's lessons from space, to symbolize the illumination of teaching and learning.

Mike Brasher, general manager of KANW-FM, a public radio station operated by Albuquerque Public Schools, was the man who suggested live lessons from space for school children.

Brasher said he was "sickened"

when he saw the shuttle explode, but said he hoped they'd try again.

On Wall Street, trading stopped, tickers froze and the shouts of traders faded away when a bell clanged twice at 11 a.m. signaling a minute of silence.

New York Stock Exchange spokesman Richard Torrenzano said, "It's not often that we do it, but I think it's important that some respect be shown . . ."

Executive director Richard MacLeod in Colorado Springs, Colo., said, "People around the country have been asking what they can do or how they can get involved in the wake of this tragedy."

## McAuliffe's peers confront anger over death

**Associated Press**  
 CONCORD, N.H. — Adults and children in the city where Christa McAuliffe taught school cried openly Wednesday as they confronted their anger, sadness and disbelief over the death of their colleague and teacher.

"The teachers seem to be more upset than the students," said John Reinhardt, coordinator of school psychology and guidance programs for the Concord school district.

"They are closer to her, her colleagues and personal friends," he said. "The kids for the most part seem to be handling it well."

Twenty-five psychologists, guidance counselors and therapists went into the public schools to help the 4,500 students deal with their grief over the death of McAuliffe.

Classes were canceled at the high school where McAuliffe taught, but teachers and counselors were available, if students wanted to come in

and talk.

Reinhardt said that other school districts across the nation might be doing the same thing, depending on their students' reaction to seeing the explosion, which killed McAuliffe and six astronauts.

"It affects every child in the coun-

*"NASA public relations did a tremendous job in publicizing the event, emphasizing the educational benefits. This flight was part of the students' curriculum."*

— John Reinhardt, coordinator of school psychology.

try that saw it," Reinhardt said. "Christa was dynamic, down to earth. She spoke in a language children could understand. NASA public relations did a tremendous job in publicizing the event, emphasizing the educational benefits. This flight was part of the students' curriculum."

Many students expressed sympathy for McAuliffe's family including her two children, Scott, 9, and Caroline, 6.

Reinhardt said children at the Kimball Elementary School, where Scott is a classmate, asked the counselors for every bit of information

Cape Canaveral to watch the launch were given the day off Wednesday because they returned home so late Tuesday night.

"They feel the event is almost like a dream," Reinhardt said.

The psychologists and other specialists were encouraging the children to talk about their feelings and to accept them, rather than trying to explain them away or think they should feel differently.

"We are trying to encourage them to be open and honest and to understand that time heals all wounds," Reinhardt said.

"Every tragedy becomes a focal point of problems in their lives," Reinhardt said.

The psychologists, guidance counselors and therapists first met privately with the teachers to help them with their own feelings and to prepare them to deal with their students.

## 12-year-old Resnik curious about space

MEXICO CITY — A rabbi here who knew astronaut Judith Resnik, killed in Tuesday's explosion of the space shuttle Challenger, says as a bright 12-year-old she was concerned whether Jewish law permitted space travel.

Rabbi Samuel S. Lerer said in an interview with the English-language daily The News that he told her that the Bible's story of creation shows God gave man dominion over the world.

Lerer said he told the girl this meant "we have a right . . . to seek, to learn and to know the whole universe."

"I trained the little girl, and I feel that I was instrumental" in her becoming an astronaut, Lerer, rabbi at the Beth Israel Community Center, was quoted as saying.

Lerer has a 1962 newsletter from the Akron, Ohio, synagogue where he was Resnik's instructor for her bat mitzvah, the ceremony for 13-year-old girls.

Resnik, one of seven killed in the first fatal accident in space for an American craft, was the first Jewish astronaut.

## NASA guards stand watch outside astronauts' homes

**Associated Press**  
 SPACE CENTER, Houston — Families of the Challenger astronauts were in seclusion Wednesday as NASA guards stood outside their homes and friends, colleagues and officials from the space community sought to comfort them.

Bonnie Jo Allen, the wife of former astronaut Joe Allen, said, "There are no words adequate to describe how we all feel for the crew and their families."

"Nothing will compensate for their loss, but we'll be there supporting them if we can. The families have given a lot to this country, and we should be thinking about these people."

Local churches scheduled special tributes to the fallen astronauts and NASA announced that President Reagan and the first lady would attend a memorial service for the Challenger crew Friday in Houston.

The families of several crew members returned to their Houston homes Tuesday night, just hours after seeing the space shuttle carrying their loved ones explode in a gigantic fireball off Cape Canaveral.

Friends and colleagues from the Johnson Space Center closed ranks around the grief-stricken families. Armed NASA security officers stood guard outside their homes to prevent unwanted visitors from intruding.

Though familiar with tragedy and danger, the men and women of the U.S. space program were still stunned by the loss of Challenger and its seven crew members barely a minute after Tuesday's flawless launch.

"This is the first time it's happened in 19 years," said Barbara Schwartz, a NASA public affairs officer, recalling the Apollo 1 ground fire in 1967 that killed three U.S. astronauts at then Cape Kennedy.

they could get: Why did this happen? What caused the accident?

Clint Cogswell, the principal at Kimball who had been in Cape Canaveral to witness the launch, spoke to all of the classes, describing everything that happened.

Eighteen children in Scott's third grade class who also had flown to

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