



Columbia remembered

Shuttle workers, searchers observe first anniversary

By Marcia Dunn
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — One year after Columbia broke apart and fell in flaming streaks from the Texas sky, NASA workers who launched the shuttle and its seven astronauts and then gathered up the remains stood united in sorrow Sunday at the precise moment of destruction.

The first anniversary of the catastrophe was a time for everyone — rocket engineers, debris searchers, school children, space enthusiasts, even football fans — to pause and remember.

"One year ago, at this very hour, the unthinkable occurred," Kennedy Space Center's director, Jim Kennedy, told the crowd of a few hundred who gathered on a gray, drizzly morning at NASA's astronauts memorial.

Kennedy quietly recited the names of the Columbia astronauts, carved into the black granite monument behind him: Commander Rick Husband, co-pilot William McCool, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark and Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon.

"They were our friends. They are our heroes. Their loss will not be in vain. We will come back bigger, better and stronger than ever before, and I can assure you that crew and their beloved families will never, ever be forgotten," Kennedy said.

Almost all of the mourners held a long-stemmed rose. After the brief outdoor ceremony, they tucked the red, yellow, peach and

ivory-colored roses into the white fence surrounding the memorial. Many wiped away tears.

The ceremony began at 9 a.m. EST, the instant NASA lost communication with Columbia over Texas on Feb. 1, 2003.

It ended at 9:16 a.m., the time the spacecraft should have landed on the Kennedy Space Center runway. By then, Columbia had shattered into tens of thousands of pieces that crashed down on Texas and Louisiana.

A piece of fuel-tank foam insulation had torn a hole in Columbia's left wing during the mid-January liftoff and allowed hot atmospheric gases to enter during atmospheric re-entry.

Knowing the astronauts well made the anniversary all the more painful for Arthur Willett, a shuttle recovery worker who spent three weeks in Texas picking up the pieces. "Even though working in this program day to day, you realize those things can happen — until they do, it's hard to take that burden on," he said, gripping a rose.

Tributes also were held in many of the East Texas towns where the wreckage fell. The husbands of the two women who died aboard Columbia attended a memorial in Hemphill, in a packed Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. The memorial ended more than an hour later with a 21-gun salute.

Jean-Pierre Harrison said he wanted to thank the people who recovered the remains of his wife, Kalpana Chawla. "You are among the best America has to

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RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Seven flowers and mementos lie next to the crash site of the Columbia space shuttle in Nacogdoches last February.

Effects of tragedy still influence A&M campus

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

Sunday marked the one-year anniversary of the Columbia space shuttle explosion that killed seven astronauts.

NASA spokeswoman Julie Burt said she lost seven members of her family in the Columbia tragedy.

"I had met the whole crew before they went up," Burt said. "They were very excited about the mission and they all loved each other. It was really an amazing crew and we lost them."

Columbia disintegrated over Texas on Feb. 1, 2003, upon re-entry into Earth's

atmosphere killing seven astronauts: Kalpana Chawla, Michael Anderson, William McCool, Rick Husband, Laurel Clark, David Brown and Ilan Ramon. The Columbia Accident Investigation Board determined the cause of the accident to be wing damage caused from a piece of broken foam insulation.

"The accident has made us very reflective on everything we do now," Burt said. "We had a lot to swallow after the board findings. Everything was moving so fast, and this horrible thing caused us to stop and think."

Burt said the accident was not the fault of just one person, but of many

NASA workers.

"It was hard for everyone to realize they had a part in this," Burt said.

Dr. John Valasek, associate professor of aerospace engineering, said the most tragic aspect about the Columbia tragedy was that it was preventable.

"It was unfortunate that we had in essence repeated what happened in the Challenger in 1986," Valasek said. "Astronauts know the risks involved every time they go on a mission, but as engineers we must take as many measures as possible to make sure it is a safe

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New England Patriots win Super Bowl 2004

By Dave Goldberg
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Houston, we have a champion. And once again, the New England Patriots have Adam Vinatieri's foot to thank for a Super Bowl victory.

Vinatieri gave New England its second NFL championship on a 37-yard field goal with 4 seconds left for a thrilling 32-29 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Sunday night.

Vinatieri earlier missed a field goal and had another one blocked. But as he did in 2002 when he kicked the winning field goal to beat St. Louis on the final play of the Super Bowl, he proved he is perhaps the NFL's best clutch kicker.

For a contest that was scoreless for a record 27 minutes, this game was one of the all-time offensive shows between two of the NFL's best defenses.

There were 37 points scored in the fourth quarter alone and Tom Brady, who led New England on its winning drive, was 32-of-48 for 354 yards and three touchdowns.

Brady was voted the game's MVP for the second time in three seasons, although he did throw an interception that prevented New England from winning more easily.

"There have been some heart attacks, but they've come out on top," said coach Bill Belichick, whose team won its 15th straight game.

Carolina had tied the game at 29 with its third fourth-quarter TD on a 12-yard pass from Jake Delhomme to Ricky Proehl. Then John Kasay kicked the ball out of bounds

to give New England field position at its own 40.

Brady then moved the Patriots 37 yards in six plays, hitting Deion Branch to set up Vinatieri's winning kick.

"I looked up and it was going right down the middle," he said. The kick prevented the Super Bowl from going into overtime for the first time ever.

The Patriots led 14-10 at the half, and after a scoreless third quarter, they made it 21-10 on the second play of the fourth on a 2-yard run by Antowain Smith. It capped an eight-play, 71-yard drive featuring a 33-yard pass from Brady to tight end Daniel Graham.

Carolina wasn't about to give up, though, scoring on DeShaun Foster's 33-yard run on a six-play, 81-yard drive. But the 2-point conversion pass was behind

Muhsin Muhammad and it was 21-16. The decision to go for 2 would come back to haunt coach John Fox.

The Patriots seemed ready to put the game away when they got the ball back, but Brady made a rare mistake — throwing an off-balance pass that Reggie Howard intercepted in the end zone.

Two plays later, Delhomme found Muhammad behind the New England defense for an 85-yard score, the longest play from scrimmage in Super Bowl history, to give the Panthers a 22-21 lead with 6:53 left. Fox again went for the 2-point conversion and failed.

Brady came back with the TD pass to linebacker Mike Vrabel with 2:51 remaining, and Kevin Faulk ran in for the 2-point conversion to give New England a 29-22 lead.

ALL BETTER Student Health Services is making changes to improve facilities at Beutel Health Center

- Students can check appointment availability by going to shs.tamu.edu



- Addition of new pharmacy at front entrance of Beutel

- New ramp and automatic doors have already been installed

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Student Health Services improving Beutel facility

By Jason Hanselka
THE BATTALION

Student Health Services are making changes to improve access and appointment availability at A.P. Beutel Health Center.

A new ramp, steps and automatic doors along with the ability to check appointment times online are some changes that have already been implemented at the center.

Russell Klinkenberg, senior associate director for Student Health Services, said the improvements were necessary to accommodate the increased student population.

"The center was built to service 18,000 stu-

dents," he said. "Now there are about 45,000 students to serve."

Klinkenberg said the online clinic availability checking system is a wonderful new tool for students.

"It's so easy for students to log in and check to see what times are available and convenient for them," he said.

Students can check for clinic availability by going to the Student Health Services Web site (<http://shs.tamu.edu>). Students must then call the health center appointment line to reserve a

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Brazos Valley museum features Bigfoot exhibit

By Elizabeth Knapp
THE BATTALION

The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History will feature a Bigfoot exhibit until August.

"It is a fun, new exhibit," said Graham Criglow, the facilities manager. "It is so controversial and I think that it is a fun way to get new people into the museum."

The exhibit includes a life-size replica of Bigfoot, photographs, footprint casts, films, books and newspaper articles.

The stories of Bigfoot have been around for years, and there have been reported sightings in all states of the union except Delaware and Hawaii.

"Everybody has a story, someone you know has a story," Criglow said. "I think that is what gets people in here."

The museum, despite the controversial topic, has circumstantial evidence that will make everyone think twice, Criglow said.

"At first, I was extremely skeptical, but after evaluating all the evidence, I realized that it is quite possible that it can exist," said jun-

ior biology major Ganiva Reyes. "After seeing the research they displayed, I began to think that it could be true."

Stories and possible sightings that have accumulated all over the world have sparked the interest of many people.

"Everything deserves time to be researched," Criglow said. "It is wrong of science to write something off, even if it is folklore."

The answer to the question of whether it is fact or fiction still remains to be found.

"Students need to learn not to believe everything they read or hear," said Tom Lynch, executive director of the museum. "They need to know how to judge what is true and what is false."

Information and evidence has been provided to the museum on loan by the Texas Bigfoot Research Center. The life-size Bigfoot mount is on loan from the Milam County Crime Stoppers.

The museum is open for admission Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.bvmuseum.myriad.net.



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

"Bigfoot" is displayed at his temporary home at the Museum of Natural History in Bryan. The exhibit will be at the museum for the next six months along with footprints and other information about the larger-than-life creature.

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