

By Senator Wright

8-02070-26

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing January 28, 2026, as "Space Shuttle *Challenger* Remembrance Day" in Florida to honor the *Challenger* crew, reflect on Florida's enduring role in space exploration, and reaffirm this state's commitment to education, safety, innovation, and the peaceful exploration of space.

WHEREAS, January 28, 2026, marks the 40th anniversary of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disaster, a defining moment in the history of American space exploration when seven astronauts lost their lives in service to discovery, innovation, and the advancement of human knowledge, and

WHEREAS, for generations, Florida has served as the nation's primary gateway to space, and the legacy of the Space Shuttle Program is engrained in this state's identity, workforce, and leadership in aerospace innovation, and

WHEREAS, the *Challenger* crew—Francis R. Scobee, Michael J. Smith, Judith A. Resnik, Ellison S. Onizuka, Ronald E. McNair, Gregory B. Jarvis, and Sharon Christa McAuliffe—exemplified courage and a shared commitment to exploration which continues to inspire the global space community, and

WHEREAS, Sharon Christa McAuliffe, selected as the first teacher in space, embodied the powerful connection between space exploration and education, inspiring students and educators to see science, engineering, and curiosity as engines of progress, and

WHEREAS, the lessons learned from the *Challenger* disaster led to lasting improvements in aerospace engineering, safety

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30 culture, and mission oversight, advances that continue to shape
31 the way the space industry operates in Florida today, and

32 WHEREAS, the Challenger Learning Center of Tallahassee
33 stands as a living tribute to the *Challenger* crew, inspiring
34 students across Florida through hands-on education in science,
35 technology, engineering, and mathematics and cultivating the
36 next generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers who will
37 carry Florida's space legacy forward, NOW, THEREFORE,

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39 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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41 That January 28, 2026, is recognized as "Space Shuttle
42 *Challenger* Remembrance Day" in Florida to honor the *Challenger*
43 crew, reflect on Florida's enduring role in space exploration,
44 and reaffirm this state's commitment to education, safety,
45 innovation, and the peaceful exploration of space.