

'The cause in which they died will continue.'

President Bush, commenting on the space shuttle tragedy



Michael Anderson David Brown Kalpana Chawla Laurel Clark Rick Husband Willie McCool Ilan Ramon

COLUMBIA MOURNED



Debris from the space shuttle Columbia streaks across the sky Saturday. Columbia broke apart over Texas killing seven astronauts minutes before a scheduled landing in Florida. AP Photo/Tyler Morning Telegraph/Dr. Scott Lieberman

Shuttle tragedy shocks, saddens world

Columbia doctor trained at Groton

By JENNY BONE MILLER
Norwich Bulletin

GROTON — A doctor once stationed at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Groton is among the seven astronauts who died in Saturday's Columbia shuttle tragedy.

It was the second sudden and very public heartbreak for Dr. Laurel Blair Salton Clark's family in 16 months. Her cousin, Timothy Haviland, worked for Marsh & McLennan Inc. on the 98th floor of the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. He died when the tower collapsed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Haviland and Laurel Clark were friends as well as cousins.

"Tim had planned to go the launch, but it was not to be," his mother, Betty Haviland, 73, of Ames, Iowa, said.

Instead, Clark and her son ended up attending a memorial for Timothy in November 2001.

Timothy's wife, Amy, lost a brother in the Sept. 11 attacks. Robert W. Spear Jr., 30, was a firefighter with the New York Fire Department.

Clark, 41, spent time in 1989 working at the Groton Naval Undersea Medical Institute to become a Navy undersea medical officer after medical school.

She was an undersea medical officer candidate at the time, passing through eastern



Space shuttle Columbia mission specialist Laurel Clark of Racine, Wis., has her suit checked at crew headquarters in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Jan. 14, in preparation for the Jan. 16 launch. In 1989, she trained at Groton.

Connecticut as so many others do while training for specialized Navy careers. She already was a doctor and had just finished a residency in pediatrics at the Naval Hos-

pital in Bethesda, Md.

She was on board Columbia to conduct science experiments. She was one of two women on this space flight, her first, and one of about 30

women in the space program.

Clark's husband, Jonathan, and their 7-year-old son, Iain, **See DOCTOR, A4**

t Crew members, A3.

Explosion in Texas skies takes 7 astronauts' lives; NASA will face scrutiny

By CHRIS KRIDLER
Gannett News Service

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Columbia exploded and broke apart over central Texas Saturday morning on its way to landing at Kennedy Space Center, killing all seven astronauts, including the first Israeli astronaut.

"Columbia is lost; there are no survivors," President Bush said.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known, but NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said there was no indication of terrorism. NASA and Congress promised separate investigations.

Not since Challenger has the space program been so threatened. But it was the human tragedy that gripped Kennedy Space Center and the world Saturday morning. There was a sense of disbelief and horror that many had not felt since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"We trust the prayers of the nation will be with them and with their families. A more courageous group of people you could not have hoped to know," O'Keefe said.

Speculation as to the cause immediately focused on the debris that struck the orbiter's left wing on launch Jan. 16 and damaged the tiles that protect the shuttle from the extreme heat of re-entry.

"Sadly, from the video that's available, it does not appear that there were any survivors," Bill Readdy, NASA's associate administrator for space flight, said.

Columbia's science mission, which largely focused on the effects of space travel on the human body, had been delayed multiple times because of technical and other concerns. Like NASA's other shuttles, it had welding repairs on its fuel-pipe liners last summer. The shuttle, the oldest and first into orbit, completed a \$145 million overhaul in 2001.

During this mission's launch, a piece of the shuttle's external tank was believed to have struck the left t



O'Keefe

Complete coverage

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On the Web

- Find links to coverage of the Columbia shuttle disaster at norwichbulletin.com, including:
- t Exclusive video of launch shows debris hitting its left wing.
- t Developments from the experts at Florida Today.
- t Columbia photo gallery.
- t Radar image of debris.
- t Full report about loss.
- t Eyewitness accounts.

Note to readers

Today's Norwich Bulletin includes seven pages of news on Saturday's shuttle disaster. Some news and features that normally appear in the A section have moved. World and Nation news is on page D3. State news is on page B6. Because we printed additional copies of today's main news sections, some newspapers do not include Living and insert advertising, which were printed earlier in the week.

See **ROOTS, A4**

NASA roots run deep in Norwich area

By DAVID PENCEK
Norwich Bulletin

Unlike the Challenger explosion in 1986, Peter Beauregard didn't personally work with any of the astronauts aboard the shuttle Columbia. It didn't make Saturday any easier for the Norwich native, who has worked for NASA since 1979.

"It's the worst kind of memories to have," Beauregard, 45, said during a phone interview from his Houston home. "It's a very somber mood. You're in some state of shock when something like



this happens."

Beauregard, who left home after graduating from Norwich Free Academy in 1975, is the chief of NASA's space line training division. In 1986 he worked with astronaut Richard Scobee, who was on the Challenger flight.

After watching the Columbia disintegrate on television Saturday, Beauregard went to the Johnson Space Center to make sure the training records for the flight were in order for the investigation.

"We have to bounce back," Beauregard said. "We have to find out what went wrong and fix it. We're not going to let the crew's work be in vain. We have to be focused on figuring out what happened and getting the program back on-track as soon as we can."

The Columbia tragedy had Rebecca St. Amant of Lebanon thinking about her

late father, Joe Richardson, who worked as an electrical engineer for NASA Mission Control in Houston.

After some of the lunar missions and space flights, Amant's father would take her to the space center to see the astronauts in quarantine.

"We have all these color photos signed by astronauts," Amant, 45, said.

Two years ago, Amant, her husband and her two sons, visited the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and watched the launch of the Columbia.

See **ROOTS, A4**

GOODMORNING

WARMING TREND

t Helene Gau-dreau of Griswold. Happy 87th birthday.

t More greetings, B5.

Morning clouds, then clearing; high of 42



Forecast on back of section



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