



IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 2, 2020

Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. LIGHTWOOD, Mr. KANZLER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. MILLER) introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To rename the Congressional Space Medal of Honor to honor the crews of STS-51-L (the *Challenger* Disaster) and STS-107 (the *Columbia* Disaster).

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,

SECTION. 1. SHORT TITLE

This act may be cited as the “Challenger-Columbia Medal Act of 2020”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

Congress finds that—

- (1) STS-51-L was the first Space Shuttle mission to result in a loss of Crew and Vehicle, killing all 7 astronauts onboard (including the first Teacher in Space);
- (2) STS-107 was the second Space Shuttle mission to result in a loss of Crew and Vehicle, killing all 7 astronauts onboard (including the first Israeli Citizen in Space); and

- (3) There is currently a Congressional medal given out to astronauts who have distinguished themselves from other astronauts.

SEC. 3. RENAMING OF THE MEDAL

- (1) 51 U.S.C 30901 shall be amended;
- (a) By changing the Section's title to read, "§ 30901. Congressional Challenger-Columbia Medal of Honor"; and
 - (b) By amending subsection A to read "The President may award, and present in the name of Congress, a medal of appropriate design, which shall be known as the Congressional Challenger-Columbia Medal of Honor, to any astronaut who in the performance of the astronaut's duties has distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious efforts and contributions to the welfare of the Nation and of humankind."

SEC. 4. ENACTMENT

The provisions described in this Act shall go into effect immediately upon the passage of this Bill, and its subsequent signature by the President.