

## Chapter Eight

### STS-107

I was sitting with Kalpana when she received the telephone call assigning her to the STS-107 (1) crew during the summer of 2000. She was, needless to say, happy to be given the opportunity to fly in space again. Her crewmates included 1995 classmates Rick Husband and Mike Anderson, 1996 classmates Willie McCool, Dave Brown, and Laurel Clark, and Israeli Air Force pilot Ilan Ramon.



STS-107 mission patch

The STS-107 crew quickly became a very close and cohesive team, not least because of Rick's outstanding leadership. He was making his second shuttle flight and his first as Commander (CDR), an unusual assignment because pilots usually completed two missions before being given command. It also helped that the Astronaut Corps was at that time short of qualified shuttle commanders. He was an icon for the imagined innocence of 1950s America, a devout Christian, US Air Force colonel, thoroughly accomplished military

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1. STS-107: Space Transportation System mission number 107.