

WORD FROM WASHINGTON



After The Columbia Tragedy

by John W. Douglass

(NAPSA)—One question quickly answered following Space Shuttle Columbia's loss was whether the U.S. would continue a robust space program.

Only hours after the spacecraft disintegrated, NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe, and later President Bush, told the world of this nation's commitment to the space program.

Unfortunately, it often takes a horrible event to turn the critical national eye to deserving issues simmering below the surface.



Douglass

Human space flight will now receive—and advance—under such scrutiny.

The space program has become an inseparable part of America. How we see ourselves. How the world sees us. That's why going forward was never in doubt.

From the space program comes leaps in knowledge, plus a national sense of accomplishment, identity and adventure.

Yes, adventure requires magnificent machines. We already have brave souls eager to fly again. We will give them the best machines the world has ever known. And the world will again watch in awe.

As President Bush said, "It is a desire written in the human heart."

John W. Douglass is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aerospace Industries Association.