



CHALLENGER STS – 51L

*A
Mission
To The Stars*



Thirty-six years ago I watched on a TV monitor in Downey the loss of seven courageous men and women on the Space Shuttle Challenger. As the world watched in anticipated hope for the 51L mission to take education into space it turned into horror and a lesson in "Failure". Seven brave souls gave their lives for what they believed in. Today is a day to remember their sacrifice and honor the memory of STS 51L.

"Failure may not have been an Option" for the launch teams of NASA at KSC Florida but on this day it was a reality. Failure would and will happen again because we are human, fallible and make mistakes. The question becomes though what do we learn from them, our "Lessons Learned". What did the price paid by the crew of STS51L buy us? Sometimes the price to pay to "Touch the face of God" is very high. Space Exploration is a dangerous profession but also very rewarding.

January 28, 1986

