

REMEMBERING



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

The crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia included Yorktown High School graduate David Brown (left). Pictured with him are Commander Rick Husband, Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla, Michael Anderson, Pilot William McCool and Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Arlington County Planetarium was renamed in 2008 in honor of Space Shuttle Columbia astronaut and Arlington native David M. Brown.



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

The seven-member crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia included Yorktown High School graduate David Brown (top left). Pictured with him are (clockwise): Pilot William McCool, Michael Anderson, Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, Laurel Clark, Commander Rick Husband and Kalpana Chawla.

The Final Countdown

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

David Brown was just 16 minutes from home. As a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, the Arlington native was going through final landing preparations aboard STS-107 to conclude what for more than two weeks had been a routine mission.

But at 9 a.m. on Feb. 1, 2003, that changed when Columbia began its reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, disintegrating over the skies of Texas just minutes from its planned Florida touchdown.

"I'll never forget the tears in my father's voice when he called to tell me to turn on the TV," said local resident Col. Nathan "Chili" Lindsay Jr. (ret), whose father, the late Gen. Nathan Lindsay, was the 45th Air Force wing commander during the Challenger tragedy. "Dad rarely cried but I knew he was reliving the Challenger incident."

Feb. 1, 2023, marks the 20th anniversary of the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, the third date in less than a week of three tragedies that claimed the lives of 17 astronauts: On Jan. 27, 1967, three astronauts were lost in the Apollo 1 launch pad fire and on Jan. 28, 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded on take-off, killing all seven astronauts on board. In all three accidents, investigators found human error played a role.

Because of the clustering of these three dates, NASA sets aside the last Thursday of



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Arlington native David M. Brown, a Navy Captain and flight surgeon, served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia.

"Dave knew that the chance of not coming back was significant."

— Douglas Brown, brother of Columbia astronaut David Brown



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Arlington native David M. Brown perished in the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

every January as a Day of Remembrance to commemorate its fallen astronauts.

Brown was born and raised in Arlington, attending McKinley Elementary and Swanson Middle schools before graduating from



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Space Shuttle Columbia Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Yorktown High School in 1974. He received a BA degree in biology from the College of William and Mary in 1978 and a doctorate in medicine from Eastern Virginia Medical School in 1982.

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 5
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Remembering Arlington Native

FROM PAGE 4

“Gemini is what I remember growing up with, then certainly Apollo,” Brown said in one of his final interviews prior to the mission. “I thought that was the coolest job you could ever have but I couldn’t see the path there as a normal kid.”

A U.S. Navy Captain, Brown was a first-time astronaut aboard the Columbia. He was also an aspiring filmmaker who recorded hundreds of hours of the training process for the fated crew, which included Commander Rick Husband, pilot William C. McCool, Payload Commander Michael P. Anderson, Mission Specialists Kalpana Chawla and Laurel Clark, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon.

“Dave knew that the chance of not coming back was significant,” said Brown’s older brother Douglas Brown in the 2009 documentary “Astronaut Diaries,” which was made featuring his brother’s film work. “Hence when he did his last email, he wrote it with the thought that it

could be a distinct possibility.”

Brown, son of the late Arlington County Circuit Court Judge Paul D. Brown, was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery alongside Columbia crewmates Laurel Clark and Michael Anderson. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Additionally, the Arlington County Planetarium was renamed in Brown’s honor on Feb. 1, 2008, five years after his death.

“It’s hard to believe that it is coming up on 16 days and we land tomorrow,” Brown wrote in what would be his final email to his family. “The views are really beautiful. My crewmates are like family. It will be hard to leave them after being so close for two-and-a-half years.

I will make one more observation. If I’d been born in space I know I would have a desire to visit the beautiful earth more than I ever yearn to visit space. It is a wonderful planet.”

“FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

Office of 55+ Programs
Department of Parks
and Recreation
300 N. Park Dr.,
Arlington, VA 22203
703-228-4747

703-228-4747.

55+ Travel group will tour the new National Museum of the U.S. Army at Ft. Belvoir, Monday, Feb. 6. Cost \$10, Arlington resident, \$13, non-resident. Registration # 902302-02.

Jeopardy, America’s favorite quiz game, Monday, Feb. 6, 2 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 912600-16.

Reading buddies, participants pair up

with children from Lubber Run’s Creative Preschoolers Program and read stories out loud, Monday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Books provided by preschool teacher. Registration # 912301-11. Learn to cook sweet and nutritious desserts for Valentine’s Day, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 11:30 a.m., virtual. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteer. Registration # 912890-11.

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 7

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers, unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate (starting at a \$20 annual fee). To join or register, go to registration.arlingtonva.us or call



Thalea String Quartet



ALEXANDRIA
symphony
orchestra
22-23
season

Haydn, Mozart & Barber Adagio

Banner

SAT. FEB 11, 2023 - 7:30 P.M.
SUN. FEB 12, 2023 - 3:00 P.M.

Montgomery: Banner

Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante
(American Premiere)

Barber: Adagio for Strings

Haydn: Symphony No. 104 in
D major “London”

Adult: \$20-\$89 Student: \$15 Youth: \$5

(703) 548-0885 alexsym.org

Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates **703-999-2929**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Alexandria Gazette Packet
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac ALMANAC

ATTRACT NEW CUSTOMERS IN 2023

Turn to the Connection Newspapers digital and print advertising options to reach customers in your community!

- Email Blasts
- Digital Billboards
- Front Page Shoutout
- Social Media
- Sponsored Content
- SEO Enhancements

For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or
Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com