

February 1, 2003

Statement by Congressman Todd Akin regarding the Columbia Space Shuttle Tragedy

St. Louis, MO- Science Committee member Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) issued the following statement regarding the tragic loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia:

“The loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia is a historic tragedy which touches the heart of our Nation and the world.

“It is a great loss of heroic men and women who risked all to advance our scientific understanding. The crew represented not only the best and brightest of America, but also included the first Israeli astronaut.

“This tragic event serves as a reminder of the dangers of space travel and the courage of our astronauts- a fact often overlooked during periods of what can seem to be effortless achievement by our space program.

“The commitment of our astronauts underlines the importance of their mission- a mission which not only pushes back the frontier of space but also advances our understanding in numerous and significant scientific endeavors.

“America will never shrink from the dangers we face, but will go forward better armed for the challenges that lie ahead.”