



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Sharon Christa McAuliffe Letter

McAuliffe, Sharon Christa Letter

Jessamyn Lloyd

2018

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Sharon Christa McAuliffe Letter
Identifier:	NASM.2018.0033
Date:	1986-1987
Extent:	0.18 Cubic feet (1 box)
Creator:	McAuliffe, Sharon Christa,, 1948-1986.
Language:	English
Summary:	This collection consists of one letter, on National Aeronautics Administration (NASA) Teacher in Space Program letterhead, from Sharon Christa McAuliffe in reply to Marcia Holland. It is signed by McAuliffe and includes a handwritten postscript. The collection also includes an invitation for the dedication ceremony of the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School in Lenexa, Kansas on September 27, 1987 at which the letter was exhibited.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Sharon Christa McAuliffe Letter

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Marcia Holland, Gift, 2018, NASM.2018.0033.

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Sharon Christa McAuliffe Letter, NASM.2018.0033, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Sharon Christa McAuliffe (1948-1986) was selected from more than 11,000 applicants to become the first private citizen to fly on the Space Shuttle as part of the Teacher in Space Program. McAuliffe was assigned to be part of the crew of Space Shuttle Mission STS-51L aboard the Challenger (OV-99) and was scheduled to conduct experiments as well as teach lessons from space that would be broadcast to schoolchildren via closed-circuit television. On January 28, 1986, the Challenger exploded 73 seconds after launch when an external fuel booster failed. All seven members of the crew died.

Marcia Holland was a teacher at Central Middle School in Kansas City, Kansas who wrote a letter to Christa McAuliffe wishing her well and telling her that Holland's students were keeping journals similar to that McAuliffe planned to keep during her flight onboard the Space Shuttle.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of one letter, on National Aeronautics Administration (NASA) Teacher in Space Program letterhead, from Sharon Christa McAuliffe in reply to Marcia Holland. It is signed by McAuliffe and includes a handwritten postscript. The collection also includes an invitation for the dedication ceremony of the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School in Lenexa, Kansas on September 27, 1987 at which the letter was exhibited.

Arrangement

This collection is in chronological order.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Astronautics
- Astronauts
- Educators
- Space flight

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Invitations