

CHALLENGER'S CREW MEMBERS

These were not the easiest covers for the SCCS to produce but since different space cover dealers and clubs produced some of them, we felt that we had no alternative. Even with the solemnness of the events, the covers do what they are supposed to do...record historic events.

The culmination of this series of events was on April 29, 1986. This was the day that the remains of Challenger's seven astronauts were flown to Dover, Delaware. There they would be prepared at the Dover Air Force Base mortuary for burial in accordance with family wishes. Thousands of NASA workers looked on in silence as the event took place at the Kennedy Space Center. The jet transport, carrying the remains of the seven heroes, departed KSC at 7:34 a.m.

Each of the remains was escorted on the three-hour flight by a member of the astronaut corps from the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Also aboard the flight were Rear Admiral Richard Truly, an astronaut and head of the shuttle program and chief astronaut John Young.

The SCCS has a set of three covers; one with MPP Houston hand cancel (for the astronaut accompanying the remains of each of the seven); one with cachet featuring Truly and Young (with MPP Houston hand cancel); and the third cover with appropriate cachet and Kennedy Space Center cancel as the plane departed KSC for Dover.

Other covers in this series are listed below and all of the ones below are appropriately cacheted and cancelled with the Houston MPP hand cancel.

- Feb 7, 1986 NASA sources in Houston confirm an astronaut helmet recovered by a coast guard cutter off the Florida coast.
- Feb 11, 1986 Enhanced videotape frames show the forward 40 feet of Challenger, including the crew cabin, emerging from the main fireball, and then there is another explosion in the front part.
- Mar 9, 1986 Searchers locate the wreckage of Challenger's crew compartment, with some remains of crew members inside.
- Mar 12, 1986 A salvage ship docks at Port Canaveral carrying what was rumored to be remains of Challenger's seven crew members. Officials at JSC would not confirm this.
- Mar 24, 1986 Military pathologists identify remains of six of the crew members of Challenger. JSC assigned an astronaut to each of the families of the crew members to act as a "casualty assistance officer."
- Apr 17, 1986 Pathologists identify the remains of Gregory Jarvis, the last missing Challenger astronaut.
- Apr 23, 1986 Without comment, NASA released a set of 10 pictures that showed Challenger's nose section, with the crew cabin inside, breaking cleanly away from the exploding fuel tank and plunging intact toward the ocean. NASA officials were uncertain at what point the astronauts died.

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TO: SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY, P O Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052

Please send me the following 51-L Challenger crew members=related covers:

___ Set(s) of 3 covers "Remains Flown From KSC to Dover" (One KSC cancel and two Houston MPP hand cancel of Apr 29, 1986) @ \$3.75	\$	_____
___ Feb 7, 1986 "Astronaut Helmet Recovered" @ \$1.25		_____
___ Feb 11, 1986 "Crew Cabin Separates From Explosion" @ \$1.25		_____
___ Mar 9, 1986 "Crew Compartment Located" @ \$1.25		_____
___ Mar 12, 1986 "Crew Remains Brought to Shore" @ \$1.25		_____
___ Mar 24, 1986 "Remains of 6 Identified" @ \$1.25		_____
___ Apr 17, 1986 "Jarvis' Remains Identified" @ \$1.25		_____
___ Apr 23, 1986 "Cabin Explosion Pics Released" @ \$1.25		_____
	Postage and handling	_____ .40
	Total remittance	\$ _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

(86 #51-L-4) Please send two addressed, gummed labels with order. Thank you.

THE CHALLENGER 51-L CATALOG...With this offering of addtional covers relating to crew members of Challenger's 51-L mission, we are getting closer to the completion of our 51-L catalog. This has taken a lot of preparation, rough drafts, re-typing, and corrected negatvies made. Not only will this catalog picture the different SCCS covers, but there will be a section giving complete details of each of the events so covered. More on this as we get it closer to completion for our printer. Just another plus for all of you that have notification envelopes on file with us.