

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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**WHORM Subject File Code:** ME001-03

(Messages: Messages, Presidential: Sympathy – Condolences)

**Case file Number(s):** 367692

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*Last Updated: 01/09/2026*

367692  
MED01-03

WS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 4, 1986

Dear Mrs. McNair:

When Nancy and I met you and your family at the Johnson Space Center, we felt the grief, the pain and the loss that had brought us all together in Houston. Although no words of ours can ease the pangs of grief you feel, we hope that some comfort comes with the knowledge that your sorrow is shared in every American home and by people throughout the world.

We know that, as members of the NASA family, you and your children are no strangers to sacrifice or danger. For you, the pain of separation, the fatigue of long hours, and the strain of endless preparation have been a daily fact of life. If those who choose to join our space program are a special breed, and they are, so too are the families whose love and courage sustain them in their extraordinary mission. Like all heroes, your husband carried with him the hopes and dreams of an entire people. The memory of his sacrifice, and of yours and your children's, will be forever inscribed in the hearts of our people.

Our thoughts and prayers go with you. We ask that the blessings of peace and consolation may come upon you and sustain you through this difficult time.

With our deepest sympathy,

Sincerely,

*Ronald Reagan*

*Condolence Message*

Mrs. Ronald E. McNair  
1623 West Chelsea Place  
Seabrook, Texas 77586

*Comment* / P.S. I have enclosed a copy of Ron's saxophone recording of "What the World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love." The tape has been circulated to the major networks and today NASA played it at their memorial service at the National Air and Space Museum.

860205

February 4, 1986

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With our deepest sympathy,

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Mrs. Ronald E. McNair  
1623 West Chelsea Place  
Seabrook, Texas 77586

P.S. I have enclosed a copy of Ron's saxophone recording of "What the World Needs Now is Love Sweet Love." The tape has been circulated to the major networks and today NASA played it at their memorial service at the National Air and Space Museum.

RR/CAD:AVH:vml (2PMN)  
Enclosure: As stated.

new standard P.S. Insert

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same date



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STRAIGHTWIRE - JANUARY 31, 1986

Mrs. Ronald E. McNair  
1623 West Chelsea Place  
Seabrook, Texas 77586

When Nancy and I met you and your family at the Johnson Space Center, we felt the grief, the pain and the loss that had brought us all together in Houston. Although no words of ours can ease the pangs of grief you feel, we hope that some comfort comes with the knowledge that your sorrow is shared in every American home and by people throughout the world.

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Condolence Message - Space Shuttle Challenger  
tragedy

367692

Our thoughts and prayers go with you. We ask that the blessings of peace and consolation may come upon you and sustain you through this difficult time.

With our deepest sympathy,

RONALD REAGAN

RR/CAD:AVH:vml (2PMN)

WIFE OF RONALD MCNAIR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1986

Dear Mrs. McNair:

When Nancy and I met you and your family at the Johnson Space Center, we felt the grief, the pain and the loss that had brought us all together in Houston. Although no words of ours can ease the pangs of grief you feel, we hope that some comfort comes with the knowledge that your sorrow is shared in every American home and by people throughout the world.

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Our thoughts and prayers go with you. We ask that the blessings of peace and consolation may come upon you and sustain you through this difficult time.

With our deepest sympathy,

Sincerely,



Mrs. Ronald E. McNair  
1623 West Chelsea Place  
Seabrook, Texas 77586

WIFE OF RONALD McNAIR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Our thoughts and prayers go with you. We ask that the blessings of peace and consolation may come upon you and sustain you through this difficult time.

With our deepest sympathy,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ronald E. McNair  
1623 West Chelsea Place  
Seabrook, Texas 77586



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached for your approval are letters that will be sent as telegrams this afternoon to the families of the Challenger Seven who are holding memorial services Sunday and Monday. Hard copies of these letters will be given to you Monday for your signature, as well as letters to all the other families.

*David*  
David Chew

0006 GOVT DLY WHITE HOUSE DC FEB 1  
PMS MRS. RONALD E. MCNAIR, (DLR DONT DMR)  
1523 WEST CHELSEA PLACE  
SEABROOK, TEXAS 77586  
7447

WHEN NANCY AND I MET YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AT THE JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, WE FELT THE GRIEF, THE PAIN AND THE LOSS THAT HAD BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER IN HOUSTON. ALTHOUGH NO WORDS OF OURS CAN EASE THE PANGS OF GRIEF YOU FEEL, WE HOPE THAT SOME COMFORT COMES WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR SORROW IS SHARED IN EVERY AMERICAN HOME AND BY PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

WE KNOW THAT, AS MEMBERS OF THE NASA FAMILY, YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN ARE NO STRANGERS TO SACRIFICE OR DANGER. FOR YOU, THE PAIN OF SEPARATION, THE FATIGUE OF LONG HOURS, AND THE STRAIN OF ENDLESS PREPARATION HAVE BEEN A DAILY FACT OF LIFE. IF THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO JOIN OUR SPACE PROGRAM ARE A SPECIAL BREED, AND THEY ARE, SO TOO ARE THE FAMILIES WHO LOVE AND COURAGE SUSTAIN THEM IN THEIR EXTRAORDINARY MISSION. LIKE ALL HEROES, YOUR HUSBAND CARRIED WITH HIM THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF AN ENTIRE PEOPLE. THE MEMORY OF HIS SACRIFICE, AND OF YOURS AND YOUR CHILDREN'S, WILL BE FOREVER INSCRIBED IN THE HEARTS OF OUR PEOPLE.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO WITH YOU. WE ASK THAT THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND CONSOLATION MAY COME UPON YOU AND SUSTAIN YOU THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

WITH OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY,

RONALD REAGAN

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CLASSIFICATION

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RELEASER \_\_\_\_\_

ROUTINE

RECORD # \_\_\_\_\_

FROM/LOCATION

1. DAVID CHEW/THE WHITE HOUSE

TO/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. THE PRESIDENT via JIM KUHN/CAMP DAVID

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION ADDRESSEES/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

Jim: Please give me a call when the President has approved these. Thanks.

David

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CLASSIFICATION

Copy to Maxine Waller  
11 to C. Kiro 6-5-86  
8-11-86