



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

April 2, 2003

S. 628

Columbia Orbiter Memorial Act

As passed by the Senate on March 18, 2003

S. 628 would direct the Secretary of the Army to construct a memorial marker located in Arlington National Cemetery to honor the astronauts who died in the Columbia space shuttle accident on February 1, 2003, and would earmark \$500,000 from funds made available by title II of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003 to be used to construct the memorial marker. The act also would authorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to collect donations that may be transferred to the Secretary of the Army to pay for construction of the memorial.

According to information provided by Arlington National Cemetery, CBO expects that the Columbia Orbiter Memorial would be similar in size and cost to an existing memorial marker dedicated to the astronauts who died in the Challenger space shuttle accident in 1986. That memorial marker was dedicated in 1987 and cost about \$10,000.

After adjusting the cost of the Challenger memorial marker to account for inflation, CBO estimates that implementing S. 628 would cost less than \$20,000 and that some of that cost may be offset by donations collected by NASA. (Donations are recorded on the budget as revenues.)

S. 628 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Melissa E. Zimmerman. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.