

©1986, 2003 Stephen Savitzky. Some Rights Reserved¹.

C G
 In the year of Nineteen Eighty Six,
 C Em
 On an icy winter's day
 Am
 The shuttle Challenger left the pad
 Em Am
 And started on her way
 C G
 The shuttle Challenger lifted off
 C Em
 With seven brave women and men
 Am
 In flames they died just ten miles high,
 Em Am
 And never came home again.
 C G
 Never came home again,
 C G
 In flames they died just ten miles high
 Em Am
 And never came home again.

And seventeen years later
 Nearly forty miles high,
 Columbia's wreckage wrote a line
 Of fire across the sky
 But long before the jetstream blew
 Her trail of smoke away
 We saw that it marked a highway
 We would travel again some day.

—2003-02-01

So never say that they died in vain
 Nor stay on the ground afraid,
 The stars are one step closer now
 Because of the price we've paid.
 And mourn for the shuttles that fly no more,
 And weep for the friends we've lost,
 But to leave the Earth will still be worth
 Whatever it has to cost.

And fire no guns in last salute
 But let the rockets roar,
 And reach for the wide and starry sky
 As Challenger did before.
 And raise no earthbound slab of stone,
 To mark the place they lie,
 But write their names with a shuttle's flames,
 Ten miles in the sky.

And here's a toast to the shuttle crews
 Who died for the dream of space
 And all the pioneers who have
 The sky for a resting place.
 No grave nor tombstone do they need,
 For their memory will survive
 As long as we fly beyond the sky
 And keep the dream alive.

Keep the dream alive,
 As long as we fly beyond the sky
 And keep the dream alive.

Keep the dream alive,
 Let the shuttles fly beyond the sky
 And keep the dream alive.

Note: Permission is hereby given to record, reproduce, and publish this song, provided you notify the author and send the usual mechanical license fees to a space-related charity, for example the Space Shuttle Children's Fund².

Watch this space: I intend to put up a lead sheet and recording as soon as I can get them together. Meanwhile, a *very* inadequate (low-resolution scan of a second-generation copy of a hastily-pencilled, inexpertly-transcribed) lead sheet can be found here³. Don't say I didn't warn you.

¹This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 4.0 License.

²<<http://www.space-explorers.org/publications/June00SE.pdf>>

³<[dream.pdf](#)>