



# PRESSRELEASE

245 West 17th Street • 11th floor • New York, NY • 10011 • tel (212)981-9919 • fax (646)375-2571

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Karen Auerbach, Publicity Director

[karen.auerbach@avalonpub.com](mailto:karen.auerbach@avalonpub.com)

phone: (646) 375-1066

## Challenger Revealed:

An Insider's Account of How the Reagan Administration  
Caused the Greatest Tragedy of the Space Age

By Richard C. Cook

We have all heard about the O-rings. But what we haven't heard about is the political urgency that drove NASA to launch shuttle mission 51-L on January 28, 1986, though it was not really ready to fly safely. The result: seventy-three seconds into the mission, the spacecraft exploded. Seven crew members died and a nation was traumatized, including hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren, who were following the flight with special interest in the inspiring example of astronaut/schoolteacher, Christa McAuliffe.

Richard C. Cook, lead resource analyst at NASA for the shuttle's solid rocket boosters, was the first to warn NASA of a possible impending catastrophic failure. His memo, which was written over six months before takeoff and included detailed warnings from NASA engineers who had worked with the shuttle builders at Morton Thiokol, was ignored by top NASA officials.

Now, with his retirement from public service, Richard Cook shares with the reading public his behind-the-scenes account. ***Challenger Revealed* (Thunder's Mouth Press, February 2007, Hardcover, 1-56025-980-9)** is the one book to tell the story of the Challenger disaster and its aftermath by the one person with the knowledge to tell it in its entirety.

In 1986, **Richard C. Cook** became one of the foremost whistleblowers of our time. He has done policy-level work at the U.S. Civil Service Commission, the FDA, the Jimmy Carter White House, NASA, and the U.S. Treasury Department. He has published articles on the Challenger disaster in *The Washington Post*, *Washington Monthly*, *Space and Security News*, and the *Houston Post*. In 1991, Cook was a recipient of the Cavallo Foundation Award for Moral Courage in Business and Government. His website is at [www.richardccook.com](http://www.richardccook.com).

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