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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-62/COLUMBIA)

The Space Shuttle Columbia, the world's first reusable spacecraft on its sixteenth flight, is depicted in its entry-interface attitude as it prepares to return to home planet Earth. The primary mission objectives of STS-62 include the United States Microgravity Payload (USMP-2) and the Office of Aeronautics and Space Technology (OAST-2) payloads on the 14-day mission. These payloads represent a multifaceted array of space science and engineering experiments.

The STS-62 insignia was designed by the astronaut crew. The upward-pointing vector shape of the patch is symbolic of America's reach for excellence in its unswerving pursuit to explore the frontiers of space. A brilliant sunrise can be seen just beyond Columbia suggests the promise that research in space holds for the hopes and dreams of future generations.

Commander of STS-62 is John H. Casper with Andrew M. Allen as pilot. Mission Specialists are Charles D. Gemar, Marsha S. Ivins and Pierre J. Thout.