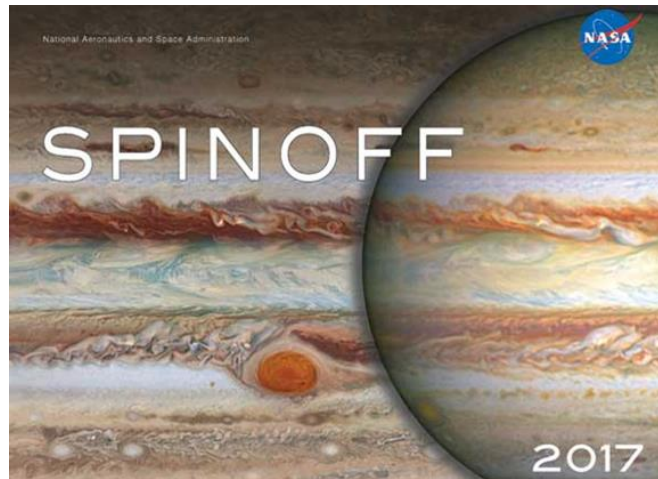


# *The Marshall Retiree Report*

## *May 2017*

*NASA/MSFC Retiree Association, P. O. Box 4492, Huntsville, Alabama 35815*

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## *Quarterly MRA Dinner*

**Tuesday, June 6, 2017**

**6:00 p.m. Registration & Social – Dinner at 7:00 p.m.**

**\$30.00 per person**

*Menu: Garden Salad, Slow Cooked Roast Beef with Gravy and Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Carrots, Dinner rolls, Coffee & Tea, Dessert: Lemon Ice Box Pie*

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than noon on June 1, 2017, at [benniejacks@att.net](mailto:benniejacks@att.net) or cell phone: 256-603-0894. A 72-hour cancellation notice is required by the Ledges.

**NOTE:** These are the dates and times of the MRA quarterly meetings for the remainder of 2017. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend:

**Wednesday, Sept. 6** - Luncheon  
**Tuesday, Dec. 12** - Dinner

Registration & Social 11:00 - 12:00; Lunch @ Noon  
Registration & Social 6:00 - 7:00; Dinner @ 7:00



**PROGRAM:**  
***“NASA Update”***  
***Robert Lightfoot,***  
***Acting Administrator,***  
**NASA**

Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr. became NASA’s Acting Administrator effective Jan. 20, 2017. He previously served as Associate Administrator for NASA since Sept. 25, 2012. Prior to that, he was Director of NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. From 2007 to 2009, Lightfoot was Deputy Director of the Marshall Center. Lightfoot served as Manager of the Space Shuttle Propulsion Office at Marshall from 2005 to 2007, where he was responsible for overseeing the manufacture, assembly and operation of the primary Shuttle propulsion elements: the main engines, external tank, solid rocket boosters and reusable solid rocket motors.

From 2003 to 2005, he served as Assistant Associate Administrator for the Space Shuttle Program in the Office of Space Operations at NASA Headquarters in Washington. In 2002, Lightfoot was named Director of the Propulsion Test Directorate at NASA's Stennis Space Center. He served as Deputy Director of the organization beginning in 2001, until his appointment as Director. Lightfoot began his NASA career at the Marshall Center in 1989 as a test engineer and Program Manager for the Space Shuttle Main Engine Technology Test Bed Program and the Russian RD-180 Engine Testing Program for the Atlas launch vehicle program.

Lightfoot received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1986 from the University of Alabama. In October 2007, he was named Distinguished Departmental Fellow for the University of Alabama, Department of Mechanical Engineering. He was selected as a University of Alabama College of Engineering fellow in 2009. Lightfoot serves on the University of Alabama Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board. In 2010, he was inducted into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame.

## **FROM PARKER'S DESK.....**

The National Space Club Huntsville has monthly meetings at the Jackson Center and offers membership to all our NASA/Marshall Retirees Association members. This past quarter the keynote speakers were most informative about current events related to NASA and our community. In January, Dr. Deborah Barnhart spoke on the future expansions of the USSRC and the planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. The February speaker was Robert Lightfoot, who provided a status of the transition team activities and indicated the agency has good bipartisan support in congress. Dr. Mike Griffin spoke at the March meeting and provided his thoughts about the challenges facing the aerospace industry. Steve Cooke, the April speaker, served as a member of the NASA transition team and provided both a humorous and informative talk about life in DC during the administration change. website: [www.spaceclubhsv.org](http://www.spaceclubhsv.org).

We are also partnered with the Marshall Management Association that meets regularly on base and has guest speakers from government, industry and local community leaders. Their March speaker was the new Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters, Dr. Thomas Zurbuchen.

Membership dues in the National Space Club Huntsville and the Marshall Management Association are minimal, and both organizations offer great opportunities for our membership to stay connected with current activities of mutual interest and to share our history with others. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at 256.468.0170. Parker Counts, MRA President

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### **DUES REMINDER**

If not already paid, 2017 dues are now delinquent. Dues are \$30 per year and may be paid by mailing a check, made to MSFC Retirees Association, to: MSFC Retirees Association, P. O. Box 4492, Huntsville, AL 35815, or by paying at the June Social.

Membership in the Association is open to former or retired MSFC and other NASA Center employees. New retirees are automatically offered a free membership for the remainder of the year in which they retire. If retirement occurs after the first day of September, membership will be free for the remainder of the current year and for the entire upcoming year. Spouses of deceased MRA members may attain membership status with membership dues waived.

If your mailing address or e-mail address changes, please remember to let **Mary Spaulding know by e-mailing her at [md\\_spaulding@comcast.net](mailto:md_spaulding@comcast.net) or calling 256-883-2228** so we can keep our records up to date.

**Marine Col. John Glenn, Legendary Astronaut, is laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery's Section 35, during military Full Honors funeral on April 6, 2017, as his wife, Annie looks on.**



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### **NASA History Symposium Examines Agency's Role in the 'Long' Civil Rights Movement**

Researchers, scholars and NASA officials gathered March 16-17 at the USSRC to discuss the role the American space agency played in the civil rights movement. The symposium, titled "NASA in the 'Long' Civil Rights Movement," was hosted by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and UAH.



**Marshall Center Deputy Director Jody Singer addresses NASA in the "Long" Civil Rights Movement Symposium March 17 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Credits: NASA/MSFC/Emmett Given**

"With a long history of employing the best problem solvers from every walk of life and with many field centers located in the Deep South, NASA makes a perfect case study for the topic," said Marshall Historian Brian Odom. "This symposium looks to add historical depth to the conversation. We want to provide more context for the voices and stories and to develop a better understanding of what's happened in the past and how that relates to what we're doing now."

Essays presented during the symposium covered topics ranging from the integration of the Deep South, to women at NASA, and many other aspects of the civil rights movement. Each topic added a new perspective to the conversation, and allowed for the framing of stories in a historical context, according to Odom.

**(Article courtesy of the Marshall Star)**



## NASA's Technology Transfer Publication, Spinoff 2017, is now available:

The publication is available at:

<https://spinoff.nasa.gov>

In Spinoff 2017, learn how:

- NASA's work at JPL on precise GPS measurements enabled John Deere to build the first widely available self-driving tractors;
- the agency's longstanding investment in heat pipes helped ThermoCore Inc. adapt the technology to wick away dangerous heat during brain surgery;
- a high-speed, high-resolution camera designed to monitor the Orion spacecraft's landing parachutes at JSC now is improving data in automobile crash tests.

Other highlights include: laser imaging technology that discovered snow on Mars and now helps archeologists uncover humanity's past, and Earth-observing satellites that spot forest fires before they spread.

The publication also includes a section, Spinoffs of Tomorrow, that highlights 20 technologies ripe for commercial adaptation, including a new wing design that could make airplanes and wind turbines more efficient; an easy-to-use device that separates DNA, RNA, and proteins outside a traditional lab environment, in a developing country or in space; and a system that autonomously detects faulty wiring and reroutes around it.

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Mike Pessin's daughter, Hilary Claybourne, attended our March meeting to promote Alabama's Bicentennial Celebration. Hilary is a member of the Alabama Bicentennial Committee, which is leading a 2-year celebration, leading up to 2019, Alabama's 200<sup>th</sup> year of statehood.

## **MRA Members, Brooks Moore and Jim Odom, Were Honored by Auburn University**

**Brooks Moore, '48 alumni**, was featured in an article in November 2016 by the Auburn News. The article quoted Brooks, "It was rocketry. I thought that was nothing but far-out thinking that would never happen in my lifetime." The article covers Brooks' pre-NASA involvement in rocketry as well as his contributions as Director of Astrionics Laboratory. He was also commended for his continued efforts to promote space programs through his docent activities at USSRC.

**Jim Odom, '55 alumni**, was featured in an article in April 2017, focusing on his reflections of leading the development of the Hubble Space Telescope. NASA has called it the most significant advance in astronomy since Galileo's telescope. Through Odom's work on land, Hubble has continued to send images for the past 27 years. "The productivity of it, the quality of pictures that it's taken, is probably one of the most gratifying things I've ever been associated with," Odom said.

**Congratulations to Brooks and Jim.** To read the complete articles, google Auburn University News' website.

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## **Former NASA Astronaut and MRA Member, Dr. Jan Davis, Named AIAA Fellow**



Dr. Jan Davis was named a Fellow of AIAA at the Annual Awards Gala on May 3, 2017, in Washington, DC. AIAA confers the distinction of Fellow upon individuals who have made valuable contributions to the sciences and technology of aeronautics and astronautics.

AIAA is the world's largest aerospace professional society, composed of more than 30,000 members from 88 countries.

# USSRC UPCOMING EVENTS

**Looking for ways to entertain your grandchildren this summer?** Enjoy Lunch with an Astronaut. Each Friday, May 12 through Aug. 18, at 12 noon, Space Camp® is offering the chance to have lunch with an astronaut. Guests can enjoy a delicious lunch while hearing about the astronaut's exciting journey to space. They can also enjoy personal interaction and **have their picture taken with the astronaut speaker for the week.** For tickets and information, visit [www.spacecampstore.com](http://www.spacecampstore.com).

**Biergarten Each Thursday Night:** Visit the USSRC Saturn V Hall in the Davidson Center for Space Exploration every Thursday from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. through October 19, 2017, for the German Biergarten, featuring authentic German cuisine. Enjoy the festive atmosphere with imported and domestic beers and delicious wines from the German region. It's family-friendly and leashed dogs are welcome on the Apollo Terrace and in Apollo Courtyard. Admission is free, and food and beverages are available for purchase.

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## University of Alabama College of Engineering Holds Annual Awards Gala



The College of Engineering held its annual Awards Gala on April 1, 2017. Receiving the Distinguished Engineering Fellow award was Deputy Director of MSFC, **Jody Singer**, and recently retired and MRA member, **Stephen Cash**. “The men and women selected for distinction bring honor to the University through hard work and dedication to the field of engineering,” stated Dean of the College, Dr. Charles Karr. The College began this tradition 29 years ago, and **Jack Lee** was among the first Fellows to be honored.

# Welcome New Members to MRA:

The following retirees have joined MRA since the last newsletter:

**Judi Hollingsworth**

**Sandra Coleman**

**Craig Seabrook**

**Bob Gaffin**

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## MRA Archives Committee

The MRA Archives Committee has been working closely with Dr. Lundquist at UAH in an attempt to locate any files associated with MRA. To our surprise, UAH has received the files from a large number of NASA retirees. These files are stored in a vault as seen in this photograph and are being cataloged. Don't let your files end up in the dumpster after your death. Please consider turning over the files to Dr.

Lundquist and the UAH archival team now to ensure that they are protected. You may contact Dr. Lundquist at email: [lundquc@email.uah.edu](mailto:lundquc@email.uah.edu).

The Committee is continuing the search for documents, newsletters, articles regarding MRA. If you have any of these items in your home files, please share with the Committee. Contact: Jean Lee, email: [Bjeanlee@aol.com](mailto:Bjeanlee@aol.com).







## Obituaries of *Marshall* Retirees

(Courtesy of the *Marshall Star*)

**Baldwin, Jerry J.**, 72, of Huntsville, died Feb. 23. Retired in 2010 as aerospace engineer.

**Beasley, Barnes**, 84, of Huntsville, died Feb. 12. Retired in 1989 as aerospace engineer.

**Black, Richard E.**, 82, of Arab, died Jan. 29. Retired in 1989 as aerospace engineer.

**Brock, Martha G.**, 87, of Athens, died Feb. 13. Retired in 1989 as procurement clerk.

**Cloud, Oceola**, 87, of Huntsville, died Mar. 5. Retired in 1987 as electrical technician.

**Ferrell, George A.**, 94, of Huntsville, died Mar. 29. Retired in 1977 as mechanical engineer.

**Folks, Fletcher**, 91, of Huntsville, died July 6, 2016. Retired in 1988 as aerospace engineer.

**Foster, Clyde**, 86, of Huntsville, died Mar. 6. Retired in 1987 as Director, Equal Opportunity Office.

**Hopkins, James E.**, 88, of Huntsville, died Feb. 28. Retired in 1983 as a welder.

**Hovis, Bertie M.**, 85, of Harvest, died Apr. 28. Retired in 1990 as contract specialist.

**Hughes, Robert W.**, 73, of Huntsville, died Jan. 28. Retired in 2004 as aerospace engineer.

**Ledbetter, James D.**, 93, of Huntsville, died Feb. 11. Retired in 1981 as technical info. officer.

**Lovell, Charles W.**, 85, of Hazel Green, died Apr. 7. Retired in 1999 as aerospace engineer.

**Peterson, Cleo J.**, 91, of Huntsville, died Apr. 20. Retired in 1980 as engineering technician.

**Scollard, Joseph H.**, 91, of Huntsville, died Apr. 9. Retired in 1986 as electronics engineer.

**Shahan, Lillian O.**, 83, of Huntsville, died Feb. 1. Retired in 1979 as secretary.

**Swords, William A.**, 80 of Baldwin, MS, died Feb. 22. Retired I 1994 as aerospace engineer.

**Tucker, Francis W.**, 87, of Lynchburg, TN, died Feb. 7. Retired in 1981 as program analyst.

**Wasserman, Dale J.**, 81, of Owens Cross Roads, died Feb. 11. Retired in 1995 as aerospace engineer.

**Williams, Thomas J.**, 64, of Arab, died Feb. 27. Retired in 2008 as procurement analyst.

**NASA/MSFC Retiree Association**

**P. O. Box 4492**

**Huntsville, AL 35815**

**MRA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, PAST PRESIDENTS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS (with e-mail addresses)**

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Assistant Secretary: Deledia Perry, deeperry99@yahoo.com

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**Editor's note: If you have articles of interest, photographs or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact me at 256-852-7336, or e-mail: [Bjeanlee@aol.com](mailto:Bjeanlee@aol.com) Jean Lee, Newsletter Editor**