

*The Marshall Retiree Report*  
*November 2016*

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

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*Quarterly MRA Dinner*

**Tuesday, December 13, 2016**

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

**\$30.00 per person**

*Menu:*

*Garden Salad, Sliced Roast Turkey with Cornbread Dressing,  
Candied Sweet Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans, Dinner Rolls,  
Coffee & Tea, Dessert: Southern Pecan Pie*

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than **noon on Friday, December 9, 2016**, at [benniejacks@att.net](mailto:benniejacks@att.net) or cell phone: 256-603-0894. A 72-hour cancellation notice is required by the Ledges.

***Program:*** The Program Committee decided to forego a speaker and instead allow time for members to socialize with each other. However, a special guest may appear. **NO, it's not Santa.**

## From Gerald's Desk.....

There have been hundreds of books written on leadership and all tend to converge on two basic principles. The successful leaders create a work environment that allows staff and/or employees to question, challenge and innovate in accomplishing their job. Secondly, a good leader surrounds himself/herself with good people that are self-motivated and high achievers and then gets out of their way. Although I can't take credit for selecting the current officers of the MRA, they certainly meet the requirements of a successful team and I have been very fortunate to work with such outstanding people. So I want to thank **Parker, Bennie, Dee, Linda, Mary, Jean, Gary and the executive committee** for making my job so enjoyable. We are currently in the process of nominating new officers and at-large members of the executive committee for the next three years, so if you are interested in serving, please contact me, Parker or Rick Chappell.

*Gerald Smith, President, MRA*



### Schedule of MRA Meetings in 2017: Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, Lunch

Wednesday, June 6, 2017, Dinner

Wednesday, September 6, 2017, Lunch

Tuesday, December 12, 2017, Dinner



### **Response from Ruth von Saurma (by Jean Lee)**

I had contacted Ruth via email to verify that she was receiving the MRA newsletters in Germany. This is her response :

Dear Jean, Many thanks for your excellent article. Selling my house very quickly and moving to Munich entailed quite a commotion, and I am truly grateful to you for collecting and writing such a generous message about my departure. Working with Dr. von Braun and his team became the highlight of my life in Huntsville, and after my retirement I had a wonderful time participating in the blossoming cultural and social life in Huntsville. While I miss all my Huntsville friends and former associates, I am comfortably settled with Lily and her family and hope for good health and stamina to enjoy my 95th birthday and the time thereafter. I loved getting the newsletter and am sending you, Jack and the Marshall retirees my very best wishes. With warm affection - Ruth von Saurma –

## DUES REMINDER

If not already paid, 2016 dues are now delinquent, and dues for 2017 are due beginning January 1, 2017. 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 December Social.

Membership in the Association is open to anyone who is a retired MSFC or other NASA Center employee. 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 notify Mary Spaulding at [md\\_spaulding@comcast.net](mailto:md_spaulding@comcast.net) or 256-883-2228.

WELCOME NEW MRA MEMBERS: Steve Cash, Mike Griffin & Ron Schlagheck



### Former NASA Astronaut and Decatur Native Dr. Mae Jemison Attended Ribbon Cutting of the New Jemison High School on August 2, 2016



Former NASA astronaut and Decatur native Dr. Mae Jemison attended the ribbon cutting of the new Jemison High School on August 2, 2017. The school was named in her honor. She was the first black woman to fly in space. Dr. Jemison and former NASA astronaut Dr. Jan Davis were astronaut classmates and flew together on STS-47 in 1992. Dr. Jemison plans to bring an international science camp to the school in 2017.

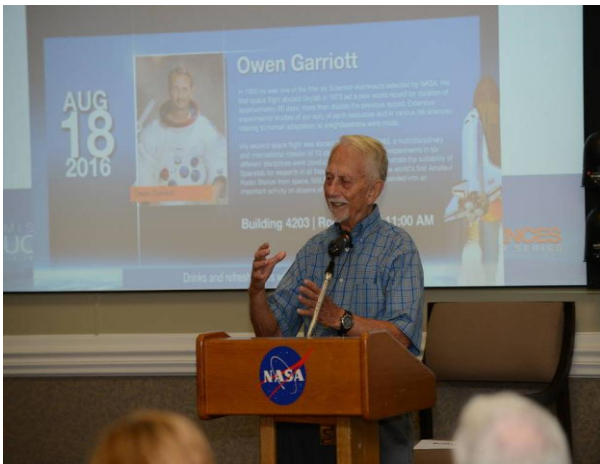
## Semi-Annual Spacelab Luncheon Held on July 27, 2016



Pictured are the retirees who attended the semi-annual Spacelab luncheon held at the Valley Hill Country Club July 27, 2016. There were 37 old folks attending who worked on either the Spacelab Project or in the Spacelab Payload Project Office.. This luncheon includes people from both NASA and contractors who worked on either of the projects. The next luncheon will be held sometime in January 2017. Anyone that would like to attend the luncheons, please email Mickey Allen at [mickballen@yahoo.com](mailto:mickballen@yahoo.com) for info about the next luncheon .

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## Retired NASA Astronaut Owen Garriott Shares Reflections on Skylab and Spacelab Space Exploration



Retired NASA astronaut Owen Garriott, who conducted groundbreaking Skylab and Spacelab science missions in the '70's and '80's, addresses the Shared Experiences forum on August 17 at

MSFC. Garriott, one of NASA's first scientist-astronauts, conducted research aboard Skylab, America's first orbiting space station, on Skylab 3 in 1973. He then flew aboard Columbia (STS-9), conducting experiments for the Spacelab 1 mission in 1983. He acknowledged his colleagues, many in attendance, with whom he worked over 4 decades, advancing NASA's efforts to make long duration human stays in space safer. Garriott became an astronaut in 1965 and retired in 1986.

(Photo courtesy NASA/Marshall Star)

*The Shared Experiences forum is part of a Marshall safety initiative to promote and strengthen mission assurance and flight safety.*



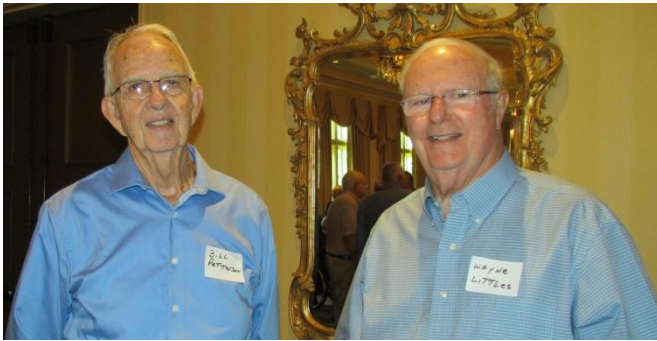
## Photo Gallery from MRA September Luncheon



Jack Waite with son Hunter Waite, guest speaker



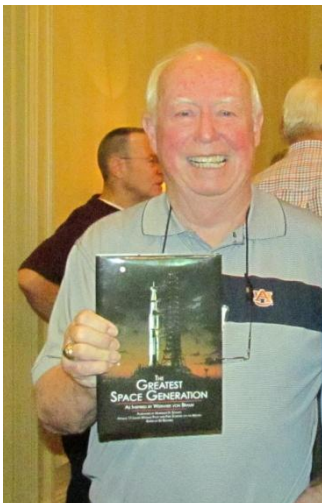
Brooks Moore and Mary Harris



Bill Patterson & Wayne Littles



Jay Foster, Sherman Jobe, Bill Sneed



Kenny Mitchell, getting autographs



John Reaves and Jean Payne

## MRA RETIREE PROFILE: Sonny Morea – Inducted into the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame in 2016



Most of you know Sonny's accomplishments during his years at MSFC. As a charter member of MSFC, highlights of his career include serving as project engineer of the H-1 engine and project manager of the F-1 and J-2 engines. He then headed a team to develop a car (Lunar Rover Vehicle) for astronauts to use on the moon. Sonny also served as Director of Structures and Propulsion Lab and as Director of the Research and Technology Office.

In this article, we want to focus on Sonny's other interests. He was smitten by the "flying" bug at the age of 14. Wages he earned as a laborer were used on flying lessons, and he received his private pilot's license as a junior in high school in 1949. His love for flying continued with receiving his commercial pilot's license in 1971, an instrument rating in 1972, flight instructor's rating in 1973, and multiengine rating in 1974. Sonny owned and operating a Cessna 210D for 30 years, and shared his knowledge and love for flying by serving as Chief Flight Instructor at the Redstone Flying Club, one of the largest flying clubs in Alabama.



He taught hundreds of students and has accumulated more than 7,000 hours of flight time, some of that time flying “right seat” with students.

In recognition of his passion for flying and his many contributions to the training of pilots, Sonny was inducted into the **Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame on August 27, 2016, in Birmingham**. Aviation Hall of Fame inductees are shown at the Southern Museum of Flight, located in Birmingham and open to the public. The Museum is dedicated to preserving the rich stories of southern aviation and houses over 90 planes. This would make a great day trip for the family.

When asked to recall a specific memory of his flying years, he stated his flight home from the Olympics in Los Angeles in 1984 with his family on board. He was flying over the Rockies when the engine stopped. He managed to land the aircraft safely. The problem was water in the gas tank. He also remembers certifying a guy who had served in the military and flew U-2 spy missions over Russia. Needless to say, the pilot aced the tests.

Through his Italian immigrant mother, Sonny developed a **love for all music, and Grand Opera** in particular. His mother would listen to Grand Opera on the radio, memorize the pieces and would sing them in the house continuously. His passion for music brought him to serve as Board Member of the Huntsville Opera Theater, and serve as President, Vice President and Board Member of the Huntsville Community Concert Association.

Sonny and his wife, Ann, are also weekly docents at the Space and Rocket Center under the NASA Emeritus Program. Congratulations to Sonny, and thank you for volunteering as a docent, continuing to promote aviation and space.



## **NASA SLS RS-25 Engine Fires Up for the Journey to Mars**



MRA Vice President Parker & Debbie Counts attended the successful RS-25 engine test firing on July 29 on the A-1 test stand at Stennis Space Center. Four RS-25 engines -- along with twin, five-segment solid rocket boosters -- will power NASA's Space Launch System and Orion spacecraft on human missions to deep space, including Mars. Four more tests are planned in the series, which will focus on the new engine controller and higher operating parameters for SLS. (Photo courtesy NASA/Marshall Star)

## MRA Scholarship Awarded for School Year 2016-2017



The University of Alabama Huntsville has issued a scholarship in the name of NASA/Marshall Retirees Association for the School Year 2016-2017 to Cody Eberly. Cody is a returning sophomore majoring in Mechanical Engineering with plans to pursue his Master's degree. Cody also received the MRA scholarship for last year as a freshman.

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## MRA Archives Committee

To date, we have not had a central location for the MRA records and files. President Gerald Smith has worked with USSRC management to provide storage place for the MRA archival data. To date, these records are in the hands of previous officers and board members. USSRC has agreed to provide a storage place, and Gerald has established an MRA Archives Committee to gather the documents, categorize the files, and with the help of Ken Fernandez, digitize the files in a data structure using Excel to store pointers and descriptions that will help in searching the files. **The MRA Archives Committee members are Jean Lee, Mary Spaulding, and Joyce Smith (wife of Gerald Smith). If you are a previous MRA Officer or Board member and have files, please contact one of the members and make arrangements to share them.** If you no longer need the files, they will be retained in the archives; however, if you wish to retain the files, your files will be scanned and returned to you. Please support this effort.

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NASA Marshall Space Flight Center news releases and other information are available automatically by sending an e-mail message with the subject line *subscribe* to [msfc-request@newsletters.nasa.gov](mailto:msfc-request@newsletters.nasa.gov).

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## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner – October 27, 2016

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner was held on October 27, 2016 at the Space & Rocket Center under the magnificent Saturn V rocket. Over 800 NASA employees, retirees and contractors attended the dinner. NASA Administrator Maj. Gen. Charles Frank Bolden Jr., received the coveted Dr. Wernher von Braun Space Flight Trophy. (photos courtesy NASA & 256 Magazine)



NASA Administrator Charles Bolden with von Braun Trophy



Jan Davis and Dick Richardson



Keynote Speaker Senator and Former Astronaut Harrison Schmidt with Bennie Jacks



Rick & Brenda Chappell

# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner – October 27, 2016

(Photographs courtesy NASA/Emmett Gavin and 256 Magazine)



Ron Paulus & Deborah Barnhart



Jack & Jean Lee



John & Sara Thomas

Paul & Lee Anna Wright



John Reaves & Linda King



Registration Table staffed with NASA docents and USRC Staff

(L-R: Bennie Jacks, Linda Dinges, Gerald Bishop, Dennis Foster, Betty Burdick (USRC Staff) and Jack Stokes (not pictured John Reaves))



## Obituaries of *Marshall Retirees*



Gene Porter Bridwell, 80, of Huntsville, the seventh director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, died Aug. 4. He served as center director from Jan. 6, 1994, until he retired Feb. 3, 1996, after 36 years with the nation's space agency.



Joseph (Woody) Bethay, 82, of Huntsville, former associate director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, died Aug. 22. Named associate director in 1990, he retired in 1995 after 35 years of service.

**Adams**, Charles (Chuck), 86, died Aug. 22. Retired as facilities engineer.

**Boykin**, Claude C., 87, of Huntsville, died Oct. 5. Retired in 1988 as electronics engineer.

**Capley**, Fred M., 83, of Fayetteville, died Sept. 12. Retired as aerospace engineer.

**Coleman**, James H., 84, of Madison, died Sept. 12. Retired as aerospace engineer.

**Daniels**, James L., 90 of Huntsville, died Aug. 14. Retired in 1981 as space systems planning specialist.

**Guynes**, Barry V., 76 of Huntsville, died Nov. 3. Retired in 2005 as facilities engineer.

**Harper**, James W., 95, of Huntsville, died Aug. 5. Retired as aerospace engineer.

**Harris**, Charles E., 82, of Huntsville, died July 9. Retired 1990 as aerospace engineer.

**Holder**, Ray Clinton, 82, died Aug. 5. Retired in 1989 as aerospace engineer

**Jones**, Charles O., 80, of Huntsville, died Sept. 28. Retired in 1996 as aerospace engineer.

**Jones**, Jack A., 81, of Fayetteville, died Sept. 28. Retired as aerospace engineer.

**Kea**, Jay Wendell, 83 of Huntsville, died Sept. 12. Retired as aerospace engineer

**Kezer**, Linda Scott Phillips, 72, of Huntsville, died Sept. 5. Retired in 2006 as program analyst.

**Kross**, Dennis, A., 74, of Huntsville, died June 3. Retired as aerospace engineer.

**Lundy**, Kathleen G., 72, of Huntsville, died Aug. 26. Retired in 2011 as management support assistant.

**McMahon**, William J., 92, of Huntsville, died Sept. 13. Retired in 1994 as aerospace engineer

**Middleton**, Robert L., 85, of Huntsville, died Sept. 30. Retired in 1990 as aerospace engineer.

**Milner**, Robert W., 88, of Huntsville, died Oct. 26. Retired in 1981 as electrical engineer.

**Naumcheff**, Michael, 88, of Huntsville, died Aug. 14. Retired in 1989 as aerospace engineer.

**Teasley**, Ralph B., 90, of Huntsville, died Aug. 4. Retired 1992 as aerospace engineer.

**Torres**, Thomas A., 71, of Huntsville, died Oct. 27. Retired in 2011 as aerospace engineer.

**Van Orden**, Edmond R., 98 of Orlando, died June 30. Retired as aerospace engineer.



**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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**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**