



NASA/MSFC Retirees Association

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

NOVEMBER 2022 ISSUE



QUARTERLY MRA LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, DEC. 13, 2022 THE LEDGES

Social & Registration: 11-12 noon -

Lunch: 12 noon

*Menu: Garden Salad, Slow-Roasted Turkey with
Cornbread Dressing, Green Beans and Sweet Potato
Casserole, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea Dessert:
Chocolate Cake Cost: \$30.00 per person*

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than noon on **Tuesday, December 6, 2022** at benniejacks@att.net, or cell phone: 256.603.0894. A 72-hour cancellation notice is required by The Ledges. No shows will be expected to pay for meal.

PROGRAM:

No formal program/speaker is scheduled. We will enjoy the fellowship of friends and colleagues and share memories.

Message from the President:

America has returned to the vicinity of the moon with a rocket capable of carrying a crew of astronauts for the first time since 1972, a fifty-year period planning and now beginning to execute the return of astronauts to the lunar surface and this time to stay and explore for much longer times.

The Artemis I flight will be a step toward building a space station in lunar orbit and having crews live there as they transit back and forth from the lunar surface. All of the images that tantalize us about the future flights also cause us to recall the images from the early von Braun rocket team which first showed color sketches of how humans would first leave planet Earth, live in orbit in a space station, travel to the moon and then to Mars, all done 70 years ago and published in *Colliers* magazine. The visions of the early pioneers are now being realized and the people of the NASA and its partnering contractors are playing a critical central role in making this happen.

This opens yet another chapter in the role of the Huntsville Space Explorers in bringing reality to America's dreams of planetary space exploration for our nation, and many of our MRA members have been part of this great adventure from the beginning up until now!! Thanks to all who have been the "wind beneath our wings"!

Please join us on December 13, 2022, at 11:00 for our last quarterly meeting in 2022, and let's celebrate successes of the past and successes to come.

Rick Chappell

The Space Exploration Memorial Is Becoming a Reality!!

The support that has come from our individual members and families, our supporting organizations, such as the National Space Club, our Rocket City, Madison County and Alabama legislative delegation, has brought a tremendous burst of funds that has brought us near to our funding goal for the Memorial and accompanying Space Explorers Honor Roll. There have been many individual MRA member contributions as high as 10's of 1000's dollars and 100's of contributions ranging from \$100's to \$1000's. Thanks to all of you!

Thanks also to Mayor Battle and the City Council for the City's multi-year commitment totaling \$250,000, for Chairman Dale Strong and the Madison County Commission's grant for \$300,000 and to Howard Sanderford and Mac McCutcheon's leadership in the Alabama Legislative delegation's grant of \$50,000. This brings our total funding raised to greater than \$750,000 which is the range of the goal that we have set for our MRA fundraising.

The next step will happen on November 29th when USSRC will receive bids from the different contractors who are proposing to build the memorial in the Rocket Park along with the transformation of the park and the replacement of the refurbished rockets. When these bids are in and the contractor is selected, we will know our exact funding needed to begin the construction in the winter months. It has been a pleasure to work with the USSRC leadership and the USSRC Education Foundation, with our government leadership, and with all of you who have made this fundraising success possible. If you have not made your contribution and have not put your or your family member's information in the Space Explorers Honor Roll database, please do so using our marshallretirees.org website.

In addition to the donations, Terry Naughton, former Disney artist and animator, has painted a spectacular oil painting of Artemis I on the crawler moving out to the launch pad. We are auctioning the oil painting and selling signed and numbered prints of the painting. We hope you will want to have one of these signed prints for your remembrance of America's return to the moon! (see separate article)

The Space Exploration Memorial and honor roll is happening. Don't miss the opportunity to have your family member be part of it! Completion should be in the latter part of next year.



SPOTLIGHT:
DR. MELISSA MCGRATH,
MRA BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Melissa McGrath joined the MRA Board in 2021 and has been actively involved in the Space Exploration Memorial Project, including the tasks of locating thousands of MSFC retirees and former employees. Melissa came to Marshall in 2005 as Deputy Director of the Science and Technology Directorate and later served as Chief Scientist until her retirement in 2015. She works part time as a Senior Scientist for the SETI Institute.

Since retirement, Melissa has indulged in two great passions: a love for architecture, with emphasis on Frank Lloyd Wright and interest in genealogy, particularly using DNA results. The passion for architecture started in 2007 while touring Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighy House in Alexandria, VA. She loves the geometric design, the furniture, the art glass and the blending of the houses into nature. While there, she bought William Allin Storrer's book that catalogs Wright's architecture. That was the beginning of a journey to see all 433 houses contained in the book. To date, it's 300 and counting, from Kansas City, Phoenix, Oklahoma, Pasadena, Iowa, and Wisconsin to name a few. She has been known to trespass on some of the properties.

As Melissa states, working on genealogy is a different kind of thrill because it involves real people. She has been able to locate biological parents for a closed adoption cousin, and locate siblings for a friend. To quote Melissa, "The amazing moment when you realize this is my cousin's mother is a thrill just as exciting as that I've gotten from any discovery in my science career."

Quote from Carl Sagan: "somewhere, something is out there waiting to be known." Melissa states this was her inspiration to become a scientist.

2023 DUES REMINDER

Dues for 2023 will be due beginning January 1, 2023. 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 next lunch on December 13.

Membership in the Association is open to former MSFC and other NASA Center civil service 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 change, please remember to let Mary Spaulding know by e-mailing her at md_spaulding@comcast.net or calling 256-682-0441 so we can keep our records up to date.

PLEASE CHECK THE ADDRESS LABEL WHEN YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL TO VERIFY THE STATUS OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FOR 2022

Denise W. Lewis (1/1/22)

Bryan Walls (1/1/22)

Jeff Wesley (1/15/22)

John P. Butas (2/1/22)

Carlton L. Foster (2/7/22)

Brenda B. Wade (1/25/22)

Kathy G. Huskey (3/8/22)

Alan S. Chow (4/8/22)

Kathryn C. Hayden (4/12/22)

Billy G. Bass (5/4/22)

Jean R. Olivier (6/14/22)

Dennis Foster (6/14/22)

David V. Smitherman, Jr. (7/1/22)

Kathryn Cataldo (7/15/22)

George Harsh (8/1/22)

Terry M. Luttrell (8/24/22)

Jane Maples (9/13/22)

Robert A. (Tony) Harrison (9/13/22)

Lewis Wooten (10/25/22)

Willie (Bill) E. Weaver (11/7/22)

Chrissa Hall (11/17/22)

Implosion of Building 4200 on October 29, 2022



As we watched the implosion, each of us has great memories of our days in and around 4200. A Facebook post by Linda Kay shares her emotions. Excerpts are: “At the age of 18, I was hired as a receptionist for Dr. von Braun’s Conference Room, where I meet the first astronauts and the von Braun Team. In 1961, the first anniversary of MSFC, the public was invited to tour the facilities. Most had not been behind the gates. Huntsville sponsored a banquet at Ft. Raymond Armory, the largest banquet ever held in Huntsville. The next day at the “Open House,” I was crowned the first “Miss Marshall Space Queen, along with two attendants, Carolyn Travis Schrunk and Sandra Baerg. I did not realize I was living in history.”



Linda Kay crowned by Dr. Eberhard Rees

Oil Painting of Artemis by Terry Naughton

Nationally known Walt Disney artist and illustrator, Terry Naughton has painted an oil portrayal of Artemis I mission on the way to the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center. He drew his inspiration for the artwork from the perspective of the crawler representing the thousands of NASA employees and contractors who have worked tirelessly to get the SLS to the launch pad.

Two hundred (200) Limited Edition prints were created (14"x16") and they are numbered and signed by the artist.

-100 prints numbered and signed by the artist with NASA/Marshall Retirees Association and Space Explorers Huntsville logos. \$100 each.

-100 prints numbered and signed by the artist without logos. \$100 each.

We are offering these prints for sale in honor of the recent successful launch of Artemis I. If you are interested in purchasing one, please see the following link: <http://marshall-retiree-association.square.site>. Proceeds benefit the Space Memorial.



Also, prints will be available for purchase at the MRA Christmas Social on December 13th. Prints may also be purchased from the following: Bennie Jacks (256-603-0894), Kenny Mitchell (256-783-9425), Rick Chappell (615-308-3484) and Samantha Hereford(256-270-3320).

Dale Strong Presents \$250,000 to Space Exploration Memorial



L to R: Rick Chappell, Dale Strong, Kimberly Robinson

On November 3, 2022, Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong presented a grant for \$250,000 to USSRC to support the building of the Space Exploration Memorial. In giving the grant, Strong stated, “There is no better tribute to recognize and honor the thousands of workers from NASA and their contractors whose dedicated teamwork made America’s space exploration possible from Huntsville and Madison County as well as all of North Alabama. This memorial will forever recognize these space explorers and serve as an inspiration for generations to follow in their footsteps.” This grant is in addition to a \$50,000 grant given in January of 2022.

UAH LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

As you gather for the holidays with family, it would be an appropriate time to discuss your wishes for your collection of NASA history. Do you have boxes of Marshall files, photographs, etc.? Please do not let these end up in the dumpster when you are no longer with us. Many have donated their papers to the UAH Library. Reagan Grimsley heads this department and will be glad to pick up any collections that you wish to donate. He also urges you to contact him and visit the archives and vault to see first-hand the great job they are doing to preserve space exploration history. Reagan Grimsley, 256.824.5781, Reagan.grimsley@uah.edu.

34th ANNUAL VON BRAUN MEMORIAL DINNER

Gene Goldman Receives the Jack Lee Service Award



Gene began his career with Marshall in 1990 as a project engineer in the Space Shuttle Systems Projects Office and served in several positions within the Shuttle program. He served as Director of Stennis and returned to MSFC as Deputy Center Director in 2010. He served as Acting Center Director until his retirement in 2012.

He has served the community by sitting on multiple boards including Huntsville Chamber of Commerce and Federal Agenda Subcommittee, FIRST Robotics-Huntsville, Mississippi State Aerospace Advisory Board, President of the National Space Club, Rotary Club, Alabama A&M Engineering Advisory Board, and Sci-Quest. He is a member of the Marshall Retiree Association (MRA) Board and will serve as Vice President beginning in 2023.

He enjoys mentoring young engineers and college students. Congratulations on receiving this honor.

MRA Website and Social Media (Update)

www.marshallretirees.org

(by Gray Settle)

Please remember that the current MRA newsletter as well as previous newsletters are archived on the MRA website and available for viewing.

The Memorial database portion of the website continues to be updated, as needed. Background information for former and current MSFC personnel in the Memorial database is added, when submitted by self, family, friends, and colleagues.

We now have an additional website capability for “stories.” When career NASA/contractors get together, interesting stories are told about past events, projects, personal perspectives, etc. This effort is an attempt at capturing these stories and making them available for enjoyment via the website. On the website, access to the stories is on the top menu. When reading a story, a form for submitting a story is on the right side of the page. Please join in the storytelling.

If you prefer, biographical information and stories may be submitted by email to marshallspaceexplorers@gmail.com or to gsettle@gmail.com instead of through the website capabilities. Contact Gray Settle if you need any assistance.

Fundraising for the Memorial continues, and contributions may be submitted through the website, a GoFundMe account, or direct mail ([form enclosed in this newsletter for direct mail](#)). Names of contributors are added to the MRA website, with permission. Below are the websites:

www.marshallretirees.org

www.gofundme.com/f/build-the-space-exploration-memorial

www.facebook.com/marshallretirees

www.facebook.com/spaceexplorershsv



OBITUARIES

- Carlen**, Wanda Reese, 76, of Huntsville, died January 19, 2021.
- Carmichael**, Nancy Namie, 86, of Decatur, died September 12, 2022.
- Bordelon**, Carroll W., 90, of Huntsville, died October 23, 2022.
- Choate**, Earl Stanford, 95, of Madison, died October 21, 2022.
- Crawford**, Victoria Janet Joiner, 74, of Huntsville, died September 28, 2022.
- Dahm**, Stephan Hubert Paul, 66, of Huntsville, died September 11, 2022.
- Davis**, Hilda Gay, 77, of Huntsville, died August 18, 2022.
- Drinnon**, Paul Edward, 97, of Huntsville, died October 1, 2022.
- Dudley**, Hugh Joseph, 98, of Huntsville, died October 5, 2022.
- Edwards**, Catherine Sanders, 88, of Kelso, TN, died November 2, 2022.
- Freeman**, Dan, 90, of Scottsboro, died September 17, 2022.
- Galbreath**, James Marvin, 95, of Huntsville, died August 29, 2022.
- Hafner**, Alexander, 95, of Huntsville, died October 2, 2022.
- Maples**, Hoyt E., 89, of Valhermoso Springs, died October 29, 2022.
- Morris**, Steven Donald, 63, of Huntsville, died October 5, 2022.
- Nola**, Frank Joseph, 92, of Palm City, FL, died September 30, 2022.
- Rutledge**, Mary Jennings, 85, of Huntsville, died October 19, 2022.
- Schmidt**, John Adolph, 85, of Ardmore, AL, died August 24, 2022.
- Stewart**, Charles Clifton, 96, of Huntsville, died September 4, 2022.
- Talley**, Drayton Hayes, 88, of Huntsville, died October 2, 2022.
- Wilbanks**, Burwell Lee "Sonny", 92, of Madison, died September 2, 2022.

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P. O. Box 4492

Huntsville, AL 35815

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

OFFICERS:

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