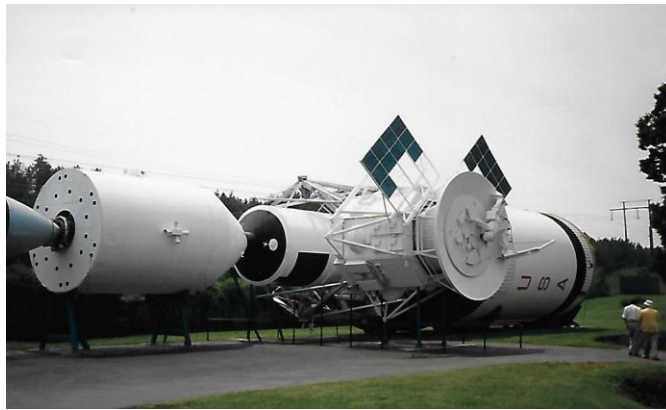




NASA/MSFC Retirees Association

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

MAY 2023 ISSUE



QUARTERLY MRA LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, June 13, 2023 THE LEDGES
Social & Registration: 11-11:45; Lunch: 11:45 - 12:15; Business & Speaker 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

Menu: Pan Seared Chicken Breast with Creamy Grits and Vegetable Medley, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea Dessert: Carrot Cake Cost: \$25.00 per person

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than noon on **Friday June 9, 2023** 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 SPEAKER:

Dr. Steven Skancke

**TOPIC:
TODAY'S ECONOMY**

Dr. Steven L. Skancke, Ph.D. serves as **Chief Economic Advisor, Keel Point Wealth Advisors**. Prior to joining Keel Point in 2007, Dr. Skancke was for 24 years a merchant banker based in Washington DC, advising U.S. and international individual, institutional and governmental clients with liquid portfolios of \$50 million to \$200 billion. For the 15 years prior, he served on the White House National Security Council Staff and economic policy teams for Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan. He is also a George Washington University adjunct professor of International Affairs and Economics and the co-author of two books on business productivity and profitability.



David Little
Huntsville City Council, District 2

**Topic: What's Happening
in the City**

David Little is a member of the Keel Point Wealth Management Team and also serving his first year as a member of the Huntsville City Council, District 2. David will give a 5-10 minute talk on his experience with the Council and what's happening in Huntsville.

Message from the President:

It is hard to believe that Spring is here, and the trees and flowers are in full bloom. I really enjoyed seeing all of you at the April Luncheon. It is always great to see old friends and make a few new ones. We heard a wonderful update on the SLS program and Artemis 1 and 2 vehicles by Dawn Stanley, who now leads the cross/program/Level 2 work. We appreciate Dawn taking the time from her busy schedule to come and keep us up to date. It won't be long until we see America's return of humans to the moon with the Artemis 2 launch in December of 2024.

The Space Exploration Memorial is moving forward. Rick and his team continue to go above and beyond. The contract with Miller and Miller was signed in April and site work should begin the first week of June. When we meet in September, there should be a lot of pictures to show of the memorial wall and its progress.

Please plan to attend the June 13th meeting starting at 11 a.m.

Steve Cash

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MRA Meetings for 2023 at The Ledges

June 13, 2023

September 12, 2023

December 12, 2023

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS IN 2023

Erskine G. Donald III

Foy S. (Stan) Fuller

Mark W. Henley

James L. Jennings

Steven Pavelitz

David D. Stephenson

Bobby J. Watkins

Kenneth Smith

Larry Fine

SPACELAB PROGRAM REUNION



Members of the Spacelab Program held their semi-annual reunion in April at the Valley Hill Country Club. Attendees: **Front Row (L-R):** Uwe Hueter, Cathy White, Larry Breazeale, Tom Lynch, Harry Craft, Jan Allen, Mickey Allen, Bill Johnson, Lynn Boyer. **Back Row (L-R):** Rick Chappell, Dan Guerink, Bob McBrayer, Gray Settle, Volker Roth, Gary Hitt, Fred Applegate, Louise Applegate, C. H. Oliver, Rein Ise, Bill Lokken. Contact: Mickey Allen allenwood1988@yahoo.com , 256.656.7107 for more information.

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES (REMINDER)

Dues for 2023 are past due. 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 luncheon on June 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 changes, 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.

SPACE EXPLORATION MEMORIAL AND SPACE EXPLORERS HONOR ROLL



STATUS:

We have reached a major milestone in the creation of the Space Exploration Memorial and its online Space Explorers Honor Roll. After four years of planning, finding MSFC names, designing, and fundraising, we have reached the final phase. An agreement has been signed between Marshall Retirees Association and the USSRC and a contract between the USSRC and Miller and Miller Contractors has been signed to transform the Rocket Park and build the memorial. The contract is expected to be approved by the State of Alabama soon with construction beginning in June. It is very exciting to have reached this stage, and we are indebted to so many people whose support and commitment have brought us to this point.

FUNDRAISING:

MRA members and friends have donated more than \$230,000 and the City, County, and Alabama legislative delegation have donated another \$600,000.

Elvis is in the Building!! There will be an “Ultimate Elvis Experience” concert event on August 20th very appropriately in the concert hall at the VBC with proceeds going to the Memorial. Contact Bennie Jacks to get your tickets and more information: benniejacks@att.net.

We are getting close to our goal of \$1,000,000 and ask each MSFC retiree to add your career information to the Honor Roll and **to make a donation (on line at www.marshallretirees.org or the form attached to this newsletter to help finish the work.** We will start the large construction with the funding already in hand and will finish the work with the funding that is to come.

SPACE EXPLORATION MEMORIAL AND SPACE EXPLORERS HONOR ROLL (Cont'd)

SPACE EXPLORERS HONOR ROLL:

A crucial commitment came early in the process when a group of determined volunteers came together to see if all of the names of the MSFC employees, past and present could be found. Led by Sandra Turner, Gray Settle, Linda Posey and Annette Tingle with help from Barbara Shannon, Shirley Ellis, Janice Young, Jan Zielenski, Ralph Hoodless and Carol Byler, together with “inside” HR help from Jean Payne and Danny Hightower, more than 22,000 names have been found, starting with 11,000 handwritten 5x8 cards and then going through of all of the Marshall phone books.

This personal commitment has taken more than four years and the list is being purged to eliminate duplications and putting them in chronological order of hiring date. This is an incredible gift to all of us!

We will remember Sandra whom we have lost, and we will honor Gray, Annette, Linda and all who have given of themselves and their time. We are also encouraging companies who have partnered with MSFC to add their employees’ names to the on line honor roll as well. This is a major accomplishment for history.

SCHEDULE:

The projected time to carry out the memorial is 11 months and the online Space Explorers Honor Roll is expected to be completed in five months so that the engraved plaques can be completed and installed. A kiosk will stand by the memorial to give information on the history of the individuals and the location of their names on the memorial wall.

Stay tuned for information at the groundbreaking in June!

Rick Chappell, Memorial Project Manager



A group of women who provided administrative support to Dr. von Braun and his 9th Floor management team gather in March of each year to celebrate his birthday (March 23, 1912). **Seated: (L-R) Mary Spaulding, Jean Payne, Shirley Ellis, Standing: (L-R) Jean Lee, Billie Swinford, Gail Ralls, Nancy Guire, Jan Zielinski, and Ann Marie Hall.**

The recipient of the MRA Scholarship in the School of Engineering at UAH, Tetiana Tymoshevska, attended the March luncheon and was recognized. She is a sophomore working towards a BS in Aerospace Engineering.



Pictured are (L-R) Jim Turner, MRA Scholarship Chair, Fabian LaPaPalme, guest of Tetiana, Tetiana, and MRA President Steve Cash.

NASA Student Launch Rocket Fair

Great day at the NASA Student Launch Rocket Fair at the VBC on April 14th. Rockets built by awesome students from around the world participated in the rocket launch competition at the Bragg Farm in rural Madison County. MRA docents were there to share stories and encourage these future space explorers. The team pictured below wanted their rocket signed by MRA docents.





Robert Champion, Director, Center Operations at Marshall spoke to the MRA audience about the implosion of Bldg. 4200 in October 2022. 4200 was the administrative headquarters for Marshall for 63 years (1963 – 2020). He brought granite bricks that were salvaged to share with attendees as mementos. Some are reserved to be used as a special wall in the lobby of the new building to be located near the 4200 footprint. The new building is on schedule to be open early 2026.

50th Anniversary of Skylab Celebration



USSRC is planning several events during the summer of 2023 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Skylab, America's first space station. These events are open to the public and are FREE. Below is a listing and hope that you will be able to attend.

Sunday, May 28: *From Cocktail Napkin to Space Station: Skylab's Origin Story*
2 p.m. in the Discovery Theater, USSRC. (Moderator: George Hardy) FREE to public.

Sunday June 18: *The Science of Skylab, How NASA Engaged Students*
2 p.m. in the Discovery Theater, USSRC. (Moderator: Rick Chappell) FREE to public.

Sunday, July 2: *Lessons On Living in Space: Skylab*
2 p.m. in the Discovery Theater, USSRC (Moderator: John Thomas) FREE to public.

Thursday, August 17: *Documentary and Panel Discussion (How NASA Recovered from damaged solar arrays)* (Moderator: Wayne Littles)
6 p.m. in the theater in the Saturn V Hall, USSRC. FREE to public.

Friday, September 29: Black Tie Gala with remaining Skylab living astronauts and other dignitaries. 6 p.m. in the Saturn V Hall, USSRC. Tickets may be purchased on line at USSRC website.

Contact Jack Stokes for more information and to participate in the events: Email: jackstokes1962@gmail.com, 256.468.2743(cell), 256.881.4748.

ELVIS IS COMING – AUGUST 20TH VBC CONCERT HALL

Bennie Jacks has worked with promoters to bring Tribute Artists Cody Slaughter and Shawn Klush back to Huntsville for “The Ultimate Elvis Experience” on **Sunday, August 20th**. If you have not seen these guys, they are the best of the best Elvis. **Proceeds from the event will benefit the Space Exploration Memorial fundraising.** For more information, contact Bennie Jacks at: benniejacks@att.net, about advance tickets and best seats before tickets go on sale to the public June 1st. At that time, tickets will be available at: www.ticketmaster.com. Make it an outing with family, friends, or co-workers!

MRA WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA (UPDATE)

Please remember that the current MRA newsletter as well as previous newsletters are archived at www.marshallretirees.org and available for viewing.

If you have a group of colleagues that meet regularly, snap a photo and send to Bennie Jacks, administrator for the Facebook page. If you know of a retiree that has received special recognition, please share that information as well.

The Memorial database and the “Stories” page of the website continue to be updated. Biographical information for former and current MSFC personnel and stories are added regularly. Submissions may be made through the website. Alternatively, biographical information and stories may be submitted by email to marshallspaceexplorers@gmail.com or to gsettle@gmail.com. This is the preferred alternative for submitting stories with pictures.

Fundraising for the Memorial continues and contributions may be submitted through the website (www.marshallretirees.org) or direct mail (donation form included in this newsletter). Donors are added to MRA website, with permission.

Below are the MRA websites addresses:

www.marshallretirees.org

www.facebook.com/marshallretirees

www.facebook.com/spaceexplorershsv

REMEMBER the *Marshall Star* that we enjoyed each week while working at MSFC? Well, the publication continues and may be viewed on line at <https://www.nasa.gov/about/star>. Archived issues are available from 2011 to present.



OBITUARIES

Brown, William Deward, 96, of Huntsville, died April 6, 2023.
Carson, Timothy Hugh, 60, of Huntsville, died February 22, 2023.
Christopher, Norris D., 89, of Elkmont, died April 30, 2022.
Christopher, James Allen, 92, of Athens, died January 30, 2022.
Darnell, Roy R., 93, of Huntsville, died March 19, 2023
Fee, Stan, 89, of Huntsville, died March 21, 2023.
Fitts, Charles Russell, 85, of Huntsville, died February 1, 2023.
Freedman, Jack A., 95, of Madison, died March 28, 2023.
Graham, James Joseph, 100, of Huntsville, died April 26, 2023
Harwell, Robert Foster, 91, of Huntsville, died March 3, 2023.
Holladay, Jerry, 84, of Hartselle, died March 5, 2023.
Johnson, William (Bill) Harlan, 89 of Huntsville, died April 2, 2023.
Jones, Bill Prentice, 93, of Huntsville, died March 7, 2023.
Jones, Jean Williams, 80, of Tucker, GA, died March 4, 2022.
Kearney, John David, 93, of Huntsville, died February 27, 2023.
McNair, Lewis Lee, 93, of Huntsville, died April 1, 2023.
Schaefer, David Allen, 83, of Huntsville died March 20, 2023.
Schorr, Andrew (Andy), 62, of Huntsville, died March 31, 2023.
Thomas, Agnes Jonakin, 82, of Huntsville, died April 10, 2023.
Wheeler, Jerry Allan, 80, of Milford OH, died February 27, 2023.
Wiesenmaier, Bernhard L., 94, of Huntsville, died May 5, 2023.

NASA/MSFC Retiree Association

P. O. Box 4492

Huntsville, AL 35815

MRA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, PAST PRESIDENTS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

OFFICERS:

President: Steve Cash, scash4@bellsouth.net

Vice-President: Gene Goldman, gagoldman@bwxt.com

Recording Secretary: Melissa McGrath, mccgrath1915@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gray Settle, gsettle@gmail.com

Community Outreach & Events Coordinator: Bennie Jacks, benniejacks@att.net

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Rick Chappell, rick.chappell@vanderbilt.edu Melissa McGrath, mccgrath1915@gmail.com

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Program: Gene Goldman, gagoldman@bwxt.com Newsletter: Jean Lee, Bjeanlee@aol.com

Memorial Project Manager: Rick Chappell, rick.chappell@vanderbilt.edu

Memorial History: Gray Settle, gsettle@gmail.com

Scholarship Committee: Jim Turner, n2250x@gmail.com