

# *The Marshall Retiree Report*

## *February 2018*

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

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## *Quarterly MRA Spring Luncheon*

**Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

**Social & Registration: 11:00 – Lunch: Noon**

**\$20.00 per person**

*Menu: Romaine Salad, Grilled Chicken, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea, Dessert: Key Lime Tart*

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than **noon on Friday, March 9, 2018**, at [benniejacks@att.net](mailto:benniejacks@att.net) or cell phone: 256.603.0894. A 72-hour cancellation notice is required by the Ledges.

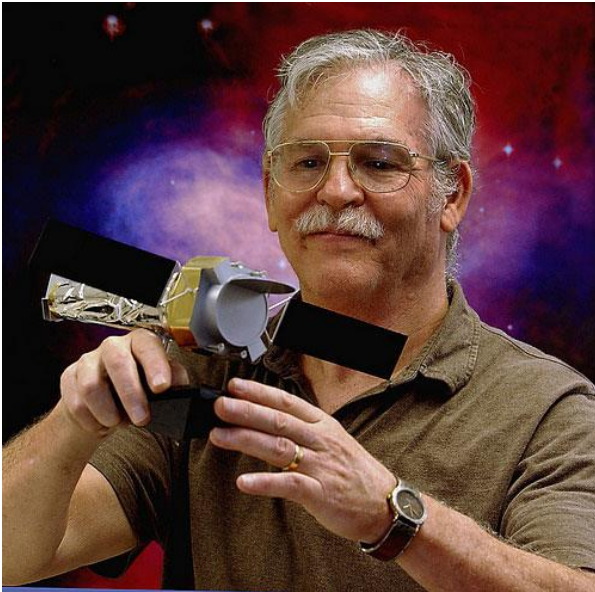
NOTE: These are the dates and times for the MRA quarterly meetings for the remainder of 2018:

Tuesday, **June 5, 2018**- Dinner

Thursday, **September 6, 2018** – Luncheon

Tuesday, **December 11, 2018** - Dinner

# PROGRAM



## **“X-Ray Astronomy at MSFC: Past, Present, and Future”**

### **Speaker:**

**Dr. Martin C. Weisskopf, Chief  
Scientist for X-Ray Astronomy,  
Marshall Space Flight Center**

Dr. Weisskopf is the world’s leading expert on experimental techniques for X-ray polarization measurements of astronomical objects. He has served as the Chandra X-ray Observatory Project Scientist since 1977. He is responsible for the scientific integrity of one of NASA’s great observatories within programmatic constraints.

Chandra is one of the crown jewels of NASA’s scientific missions, and its unparalleled success is in no small part due to the leadership and technical insight of Dr. Weisskopf and the Project Science team at MSFC. This Observatory is still operating, having been designed for three years with a goal of five.

Dr. Weisskopf has authored or co-authored 330 papers in refereed journals, books, and conference proceedings. Of particular relevance are 38 publications on many aspects of X-ray Polarimeters, X-ray (and radio) polarimetry and more than 50 publications on X-ray optics.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, including NASA Medals for Exceptional Service and Scientific Achievement and a Presidential Rank Award. He is an elected Fellow of the American Physical Society, which, amongst other things, cited his pioneering work in X-ray polarimetry.

His talk will focus on the Chandra Project, upcoming IXPE (Imaging X-Ray Polarimetry Explorer) mission, and potential Lynx X-ray Surveyor, a concept study for the next X-ray space telescope mission.

## *From Parker's Desk.....*

We look forward to an exciting year for NASA and the Marshall Space Flight Center. In December 2017, the administration signed Space Policy Directive 1 calling for Human Expansion Across the Solar System. This was a unanimous recommendation by the New National Space Council, chaired by the Vice President. The Marshall-managed Space Launch System (SLS) will be a critical part of this new directive.

We are working a couple of events to keep you informed and involved with current and future activities at Marshall. One is to schedule an on-site meeting with Center Director Todd May in the summer to receive an update on NASA and Marshall activities. Our retirement badges will allow access through the Arsenal gates and to Building 4200. Secondly, we are working on a trip to attend the green run test firing of the SLS core stage at Stennis later this year. We will couple that trip with a visit to MAF.

The 50th Anniversary of Apollo 8 will be in December 2018, and the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 will be in July 2019. Many of our members are working on these national celebrations. The Marshall Center does ask us occasionally who may have worked on certain programs as events or celebrations are being planned. To help coordinate these events, I would like to ask you to provide a phone contact number to Mary Spaulding, our Membership Chair, at email: [md\\_spaulding@comcast.net](mailto:md_spaulding@comcast.net), or 256.883.2228. Hope to see you at our March meeting!

*Parker Counts, MRA President*

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## **2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER**

Dues for 2018 were due beginning January 1, 2018, with a grace period ending April 1, 2018. Dues are \$30 per year and may be paid by mailing a check, made payable to MSFC Retirees Association, to: MSFC Retirees Association, P. O. Box 4492, Huntsville, AL 35815, or by paying at the March Social.

Membership in the Association is open to former MSFC or 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, 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.



23, 2018, features 49 technologies the agency helped create that are used in almost every facet of modern life. These include innovations that help find disaster survivors trapped under rubble, purify air and surfaces to stop the spread of germs, artificial intelligence that helps drones avoid collisions, and test new materials for everything from airplanes to athletic shoes. Print versions available at: <https://spinoff.nasa.gov>.  
(Courtesy NASA News Release)

The 2018 edition of NASA's annual Spinoff publication, released on January

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## A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Marshall employees gathered to remember those who lost their lives in the quest of space exploration



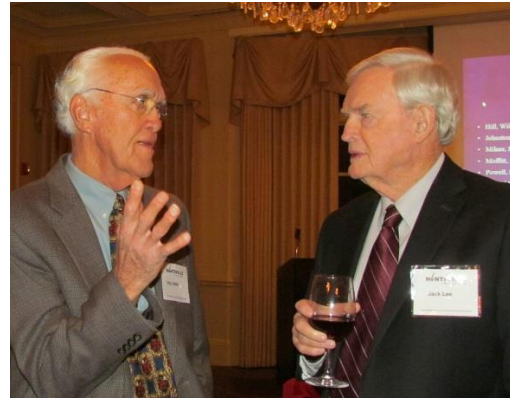
L-R: Rick Burt, Marshall Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate, Jody Singer, Deputy Director, Todd May, Center Director, and former astronauts Brig. Gen. Bob Stewart, Jan Davis and Hoot Gibson (Courtesy NASA Marshall Star)



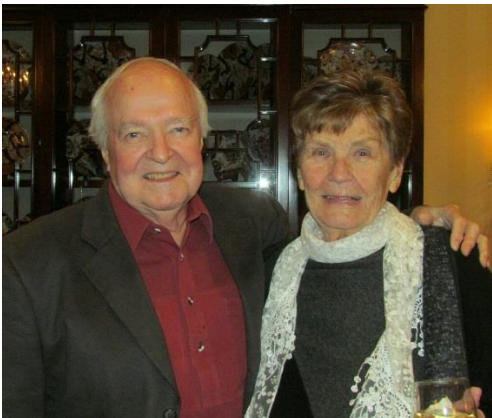
## 2017 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL PHOTO GALLERY



Mickey & Janice Allen and Harry Craft



Gray Settle and Jack Lee



Fred and Jo Wojtalik



Victoria Harville, USSRC docent,  
John Thomas and Jean Lee



Stephanie Armstrong, Roger Chassay, and Dawn Griffith

## 2017 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL PHOTO GALLERY



L-R: Bill and Kathy Jones, Stephanie Armstrong, Lynn and Chris Crumbly, Bob Armstrong and Helen Stinson

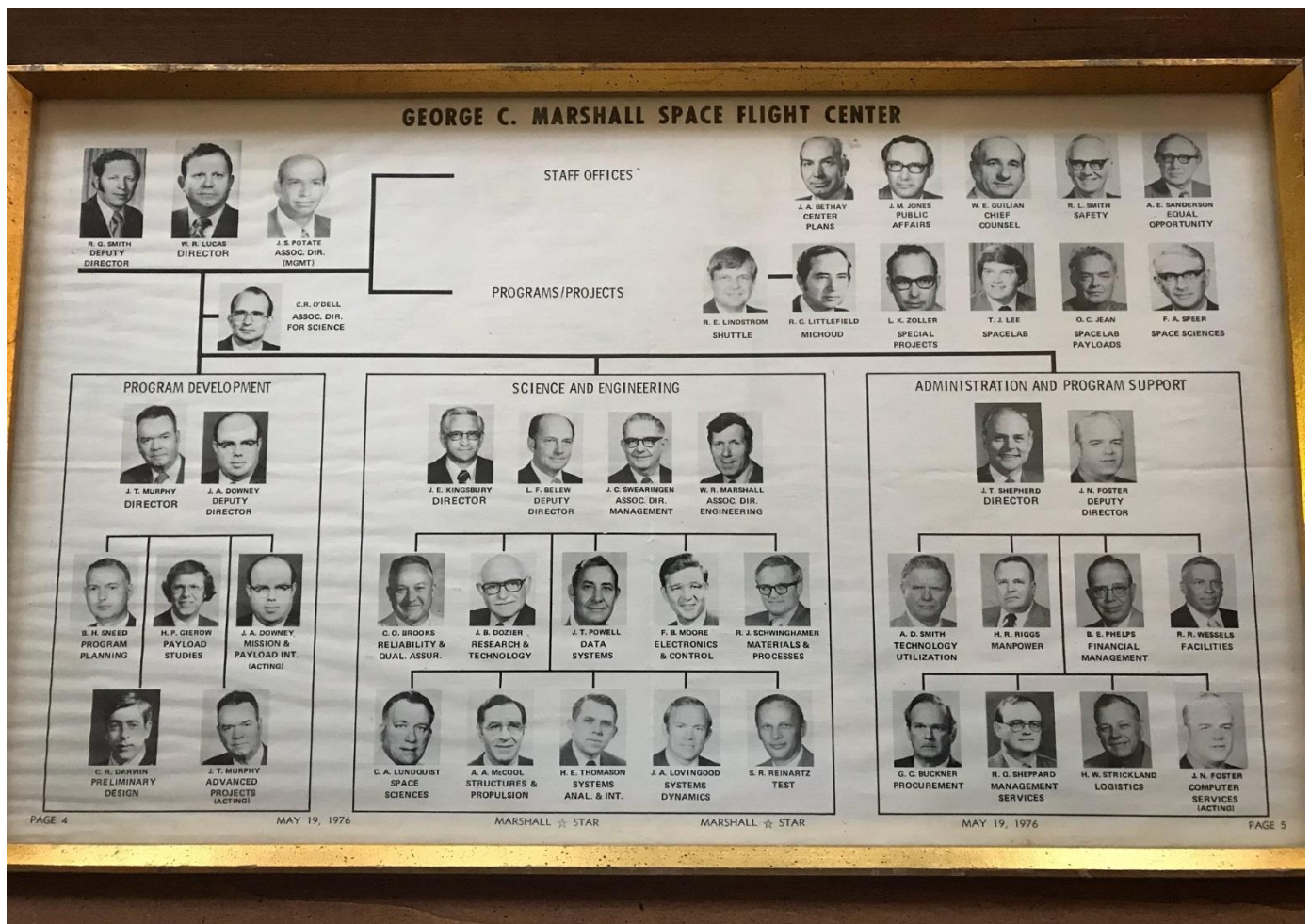
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## Docent Alex McCool Featured on PBS



Docent Alex McCool spent time with Samantha Brown, Host of the new PBS show, “Places to Love”, during her visit to Huntsville. The show aired on February 4<sup>th</sup> on PBS. If you missed it, Google: [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org) and click on Samantha Brown’s “Places to Love”, January 30, 2018, to view the segment.





Recently, a volunteer at a local community thrift store found this MSFC organization chart, dated May 19, 1976, leaning against the dumpster at the thrift store. It brought back memories of great times at the Center.

As Chair of the MRA Archives Committee, I hope that each of you are making arrangements with your family to ensure that your space memorabilia and documents don't show up at a dumpster. Dr. Lundquist worked an arrangement with the UAH Library officials whereby they would accept historical files of MSFC retirees. These materials are catalogued and stored in the UAH archives.

Our point of contact is:

Reagan L. Grimsley, Head of Special Collections and University Archivist, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Please make sure your family is aware of this important repository for space history.

Jean Lee, MRA Archives Committee.

## Update: 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Statehood of Alabama and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Landing on the Moon Celebration

The committees for both the 200th Anniversary of the Statehood of Alabama and the 50th Anniversary of our moon landing is progressing at a brisk rate.

Specifically, the Legacy Committee, chaired by Bennie Jacks, the one most likely to turn to our MRA members, has identified a list of tasks to be completed along with a working plan for each task. The Legacy Committee addresses the coming together of American and German engineers and managers to define America's rocket program culminating in the Huntsville-provided Saturn V moon rocket.

Celebratory activities being considered include:

- Televised panel discussions by many who were part of the era.
- Sharing documentation and artifacts of historical importance within our community,
- Conducting an invitation automobile show featuring your own period cars and a Lunar Roving Vehicle replica suitable for parade use in our community,
- Reaching out for celebratory participation to the government, the industry, and academia involved in the creation of the various rockets, and
- A rocket-oriented community event significant enough to establish a Guinness world record.

Though the celebration will begin later this year, it will reach its crescendo the week of July 15, 2019.

MRA will hopefully be well represented in the various celebratory activities, both as participants and as public guests. After all, this is all about you and what you did. So, come let the world show you their pride for your accomplishments. To get involved, please contact me at: email: [jackstokes@comcast.net](mailto:jackstokes@comcast.net).

Jack Stokes, Legacy Committee





## Obituaries of *Marshall* Retirees

**Admire**, John R., 79, Huntsville, died Jan. 21. Retired in 1997 as an aerospace engineer.

**Bowden**, Donald R., 84, Huntsville, died Oct. 8. Retired as an aerospace engineer.

**Bunnell**, Charles R., 84, Huntsville, died Dec. 11. Retired in 1994 as an aerospace engineer.

**Brantley**, Lott W., 81, Huntsville, died Nov. 18. Retired in 2007 as aerospace engineer.

**Chambers**, John A., 93, Birmingham, died Nov. 28. Retired in 1981 as an aerospace engineer.

**Donaldson**, Ray W., 91, Huntsville, died Nov. 6. Retired in 1985 as an engineer.

**Graff**, Charles, 93, Huntsville, died Jan. 1. Retired in 1980 as an electrical engineer.

**Grissett**, Floyd R., 83, Arab, died Dec. 15. Retired in 1990 as an engineering technician.

**Hall**, Harold C., 95, Huntsville, died Dec. 30. Retired as an aerospace engineer.

**Hastings**, Leon J., 78, Fairhope, died Jan. 4. Retired in 2001 as an engineer.

**Lewis**, Robert C., 90, Huntsville, died Dec. 24. Retired in 1978 as an aerospace engineer.

**Lysaght**, James O., 91, Huntsville, died Dec. 1. Retired in 1984 as an aerospace engineer.

**Major**, Charles R., 92, Huntsville, died Jan. 11. Retired in 1980 as an aerospace engineer.

**Manry**, Jack H., 87, Madison, died Dec. 5. Retired in 1987 as a quality assurance specialist.

**Morse**, Robert J., Sr., 83, Huntsville, died Dec. 26. Retired in 1996 as an aerospace engineer.

**Nein**, Hans, 86, Alpharetta, GA., died Oct. 11. Retired in 1997 as an aerospace engineer.

**Putman**, Doris, 89, Dothan, died Oct. 24. Retired as an administrative assistant.

**Waites**, Henry B., 76, Huntsville, died Jan. 19. Retired in 1999 as an aerospace engineer.

**Williams**, James E., 96, Huntsville, died Jan. 2. Retired in 1980 as an aerospace engineer.

**Willis**, Deborah R., 64, Hartselle, died Nov. 21. Employed at MSFC as a tech. info. specialist.

**Winkler**, Carl E., 89, Huntsville, died Dec. 8. Retired in 1997 as an aerospace engineer.

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**MRA members extend sincere sympathies to Dr. William R. Lucas in the loss of his beloved wife, Polly Torti Lucas, on December 30, 2017.**