



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

NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE



QUARTERLY MRA LUNCHEON

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024 The Ledges
Social & Registration 11 - 11:45; Lunch. 11:45 - 12:15;
Business & Speaker 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.*

*Roasted Turkey with Cornbread Dressing, Seasoned Green
Beans, Sweet Potato Casserole, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea.*

Dessert: Chocolate Tart

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than **Noon, Wednesday, December 4, 2024**, 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 meals.

PROGRAM: Keeping with tradition, we will not have a speaker for our Christmas Social, but will allow time for business and fellowship with our friends and colleagues.

Message from the President:

It is hard to believe how fast the year has gone and what a great year it has been. The MRA helped to celebrate the opening of the new Space Shuttle Pathfinder exhibit at the Space and Rocket Center. It is beautiful and a real tribute to your work. The Space Exploration Wall of Honor is nearing completion with several of the Panels with the names of many of you already being installed.

The MRA supported the Von Braun dinner and heard the NASA Administrator, Senator Nelson, speak about many of the projects that NASA has going and how they all fit to accomplish the mission of NASA. We supported the Steamfest event at the Orion Amphitheater and was able to talk about the MSFC legacy to many young people in Huntsville.

It has been a great year and I look forward to seeing all of you on **December 10th** for lunch at the Ledges. It will be a time of fellowship and reconnecting with many of our team. The doors will open at 11:00 a.m. with lunch around 11:45 a.m.

If you have not paid your dues for 2025, you may pay them at the door.
Steve Cash

OPM IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND ON-LINE CONTACTS:

Taxes: Annuitant Express, change in tax withholding (1-800-409-6738)

Federal Long-Term Care: 1-800-582-3337; www.LTCFEDS.COM

Thrift Savings Plan: 1-877-968-3778; www.tsp.gov

Social Security: 1-800-772-1213; www.ssa.gov

Report Death of Employee/Spouse: 1-888-767-6738; retire@opm.gov

Point of Contact for MSFC Retirees: Debbie Allen:

256.544.7536; Deborah.a.allen@nasa.gov; allenda0927@gmail.com

2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES

At this time of year, we begin collecting dues for 2025. As you recall, dues increased to \$50 in 2024. Dues 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 10, 2024 at the Ledges.

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.

Your membership dues are important to help fund scholarships to deserving students in the engineering field through local colleges and trade schools.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS IN 2024

Jody Singer
John B. McDougale
Stephen W. Gaddis
John R. London III
Samuel H. Morgan
Bright, Burton L.
John Watts
George S. Hamilton

Steve Beale
Frank Swalley
Martin L. Johnson
Pravin K. Aggarwal
Halsey Eugene Worley
James Burmum
Jeff Hamilton
Diana King

SPACE EXPLORATION WALL OF HONOR



While the Space Exploration Wall of Honor has been a vision in our minds for a long time, it is now a REALITY! The concrete structure, the pavers and landscaping have been completed.

The panels containing the names of 21,500 employees at Marshall are being made. Panels 1 and 21 are mounted. Panels 2 thru 17 are being manufactured. Completion date for all panels is the end of February 2025.

MRA has raised \$1,006,000 to fund the Wall. A huge thank you to Dr. Rick Chappell for his vision of the project and his untiring efforts to raise funds to bring it to fruition. Donations to fund the completion may be made through the MRA website: www.marshallretirees.org or contact Gray Settle at: gsettle@gmail.com.



As you approach the Wall of Honor at the Rocket Park within USSRC, you will be greeted by the **kiosk** in the Park. The kiosk has great capacity to capture the picture and career information of each individual on the Wall, if that person has entered the information. Previous newsletters encouraged each of you to go to the MRA website: www.marshallretirees.org and provide your information in the database. Gray Settle is leading the finalization of the software and names which can now be accessed at the kiosk. When you enter the name of a NASA friend or family member, the kiosk shows you a brief sketch of the time period of their NASA career and the panel number and row number where their name will be located.

The primary purpose of the Wall of Honor is to recognize the contributions made by ALL of the individuals who worked at Marshall. Each contribution has been important in achieving America's goals in space.

If you have not added your career, your role will be lost to history. Please set aside time to add your space adventure! If you are uncomfortable navigating the website, Gray Settle is available to help at: 256.682.0334, or gsettle@gmail.com.

JACK STOKES RECEIVES NATIONAL SPACE CLUB'S JACK LEE SERVICE AWARD



MRA member Jack Stokes received the Jack Lee Community Service Award at the Von Braun Dinner on October 20th. Jack's career as a Human Factors Engineer at MSFC involved work on the Lunar Rover, Skylab, International Space Station, Tektite II undersea laboratory and Constellation Program.

Having developed a MSFC human factors design standard set, he served as the co-lead for the NASA-level Human Factors Integration Standards.

As a retiree, he is involved in local outreach programs, such as First Stop, Wheels for Working, CASA, Habitat for Humanity, and served as his church's Outreach Chairman for 20+ years.

Jack is an active member of the USSRC's Emeritus Docent volunteering many hours by giving first hand experiences to visitors and serves as a judge for the Alabama Science & Engineering Fair. He is currently leading the effort of conducting oral history recordings of MSFC personnel through the University of Alabama-Huntsville. He also played a major role in the events surrounding 50th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing. He presently serves as a Board Member of the Marshall Retirees Association. And, we might add, he is a vintage car enthusiast.

CITY OF HUNTSVILLE PROCLAMATION



At the City Council meeting on October 10, Mayor Tommy Battle proclaimed October 2024 as Space Exploration Month. Excerpt from Proclamation:

“ NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy Battle, Mayor of the City of Huntsville, hereby recognize the month of October 2024, as SPACE EXPLORATION MONTH, and together with the Marshall Retirees Association, the U. S. Space & Rocket Center, and the National Space Club-Huntsville, encourage the citizens of Huntsville to honor the space explorers and their families who make America’s space exploration possible”. The Madison Co. Commission presented one as well.

Pictured left to right: Rick Chappell, Tommy Battle, Bennie Jacks, Marshall Center Director Joseph Pelfrey, Jack Stokes and Parker Counts.

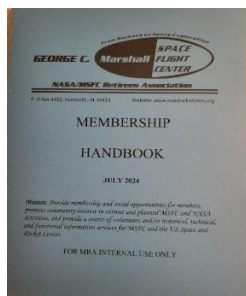
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS RESUME AT UAH

An effort to conduct oral interviews and recordings of Marshall retirees began in 2006 and had a break in this project. The effort between MRA and UAH Special Collections Division has resumed. This fits in with the MRA effort to establish a database of former Marshall employees.

If you would like more information or be willing to participate, please contact Jack Stokes at 256-468-2743 or email: jackstokes1962@gmail.com.

MRA MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

MRA has published its first ever membership handbook. The handbook contains information about the history of MRA, listing of leadership team, membership directory, and important contact numbers including OPM. The handbooks will be available at the December luncheon. If you are unable to attend, please contact Jean Lee, 256.508.4203, Bjeanlee@aol.com, or Mary Spaulding, 256.682.0441, md_spaulding@comcast.net, and a copy will be mailed to you. The handbook is for **MRA Internal Use Only**, and should not be shared with outside organizations.



Human Resources Office Semi-Annual Luncheon



The HR retirees held their semi-annual luncheon on October 7th at Logan's Roadhouse. Front row: (L-R) Tom Holden, Carolyn Tripp, Danny Hightower, Camille Velvet, Debbie Allen, Darthy Barnett, Jim Bramblett, Rick Wallace. Back row: Don Chafin, David Jeffreys, Kevin Plank, Greg Walker, Willie Love.

PHOTO GALLERY FROM VON BRAUN DINNER



Herb, Becky, Jack and Jay Stokes



Brenda and Rick Chappell



Bobby and Dell Watkins



Dave and Diana King

PHOTO GALLERY FROM VON BRAUN DINNER



National Space Club President Steve Cash and Master of Ceremonies Liz Hurley



Jim and Dawn Turner



Debbie and Parker Counts



Pam and Dennis Foster

Volunteer Opportunities:

-Newsletter: Contributing writers to prepare articles for inclusion in the newsletter.

Contact: Jean Lee, 256.508.4203, Bjeanlee@aol.com .

-Outreach: Volunteers needs to staff booths and tables at special events in the community. Contact: Bennie Jacks, 256.603.0894, benniejacks@att.net .



OBITUARIES

Brazelton, Martha Webster, 81, of Guntersville, died October 24, 2024.
Brown, Richard Lee, 91, of Huntsville, died October 31, 2024.
Cramblit, Rita Elaine, 86, of Huntsville, died August 18, 2024.
Denton, Judith Shanks, 81, died October 15, 2024.
Duffy, James Allen, 54, of Huntsville, died September 25, 2024.
Edwards, Patricia, 76, of Huntsville, died October 15, 2024.
Feemster, Patty Dwain, 86, of Arab, died September 25, 2024.
Guffin, Tom, 85, of Huntsville, died May 30, 2024.
Guzinsky, Patricia S., 86, of Huntsville, died October 10, 2024.
Hendrix, Flemon "Lafett", 85, of Somerville, died August 27, 2024.
Hyde, Eric H., 86, of Huntsville, died August 16, 2024.
Juergensen, Klaus, of Huntsville, died October 24, 2024.
Kosis, Alexander "Al", 92, of Madison, died on September 22, 2024.
Lindsey, Roberta Maxine, 82, of Ardmore, died October 13, 2024.
McMillion, James Merrell, 79, of Huntsville, died October 20, 2024.
Mitchell, Doyce "Sonny", 60, of Huntsville, died September 16, 2024.
Mitchell, William H., 84, of Huntsville, died September 5, 2024.
Morris, Charlie Wilburn, 89, of Huntsville, died September 21, 2024.
Pajak, John Andrew, 89, of Ardmore, died November 4, 2024.
Pannell, William Powell, II, 64, of Madison, died October 5, 2024.
Reily, Jack Cary, Jr., 82, of Harvest, died July 21, 2024.
Shackelford, Benjamin William, Jr., 88, of Huntsville, died September 5, 2024.
Siddall, Calvin C., 99, of Huntsville, died August 26, 2024.
Smith, Norma Dean, 82, of Huntsville, died November 8, 2024.
Speer, Spencer Wayne, 87, of Huntsville, died October 29, 2024.
Stocks, Charles David, 93, of Huntsville, died November 1, 2024.
Woods, Ray Bostick, Sr., 90, of Fayetteville, TN, died September 24, 2024.