



## ***NASA/MSFC Retirees Association***

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

### **AUGUST 2025 ISSUE**



### ***QUARTERLY MRA LUNCHEON***

*Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025* ***Valley Hill Country Club*** \*  
*Social & Registration 11 - 11:45; Lunch. 11:45 - 12:15; Business & Speaker 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.*

*Menu:*

*Chicken Cordon Bleu, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetable Medley, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea.*  
*Dessert: New York Cheesecake with fresh fruit*

*Cost: \$35.00 per person*

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than **Noon, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025**, at [benniejacks@att.net](mailto:benniejacks@att.net), or cell phone: 256.603.0894. A 72-hour cancellation notice is required by Valley Hill Country Club. No shows will be expected to pay for meals.

**\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION FOR THIS LUNCHEON.**

# **PROGRAM SPEAKER**

**Tim Fiedorowicz**  
**MSFC Chief Information Security Officer**  
**Marshall Space Flight Center**

**Topic:**  
**Cyber Security, It's Impact, and Helpful Strategies**



Tim Fiedorowicz serves as the Chief Information Security Officer at MSFC and has held this position since 2022.

He has a 25-year Cybersecurity career including Security Assessor for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, 14 years at SAIC, and 2 years at Fifth Third Bank leading their Security Engineering Team. He previously served as Deputy Application Security Delivery Manager with NEACC/AAO/APS and Deputy CISO at MSFC before becoming Chief.

He holds a B.S. degree from the University of Maryland. Earned CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) Certificate.

In his spare time, he is a BBQ enthusiast as a member of the Kansas City BBQ Society and a Certified BBQ Judge.

## *Message from the President:*

Another summer is almost gone and the kids and grandkids are back in school.

Since January, 491 people have retired from MSFC and MAF. That's 25% of the workforce. If you know anyone who has retired, please invite them to join MRA.

Thanks for all of you who turned out for the MSFC 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Orion theater. It was a great time to see friends and celebrate MSFC and your accomplishments. The weather for the most part held off, and the day was enjoyable.

Plans are underway for a Space Explorers Celebration and Dinner at the US Space and Rocket Center on Oct 1 to kick off the Space Explorers Month celebrated during the month of October. Stay tuned for the information on how to sign up.

We have a great speaker signed up for our luncheon on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Tim Fiedorowicz from MSFC's Communications Information Office. He will be speaking on cyber security and ways to protect yourself and family from computer and phone scams. **We are changing the location of the September meeting and luncheon to Valley Hill Country Club, 8300 Valley Hill Drive, 35802, off of Bailey Cove Road in south Huntsville.** I look forward to seeing everyone there for good fun and fellowship. The doors will open at 11:00 a.m. with lunch around 11:45. Please check in at the Registration Desk.

*Steve Cash*

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### **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](http://www.LTCFEDS.COM)

**Thrift Savings Plan:** 1-877-968-3778; [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov)

**Social Security:** 1-800-772-1213; [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

**Report Death of Employee/Spouse:** 1-888-767-6738; [retire@opm.gov](mailto:retire@opm.gov)

**Point of Contact for MSFC Retirees:** Debbie Allen:

256.544.7536; [Deborah.a.allen@nasa.gov](mailto:Deborah.a.allen@nasa.gov); [allenda0927@gmail.com](mailto:allenda0927@gmail.com)

It's past the time to pay dues for 2025. Annual membership dues are \$50. 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 September 9, 2025 at **Valley Hill Country Club**. To check your membership status, check the address label on this newsletter that you receive in the mail.

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 is important to help fund scholarships to deserving students in the engineering field through local colleges and trade schools.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

### **MRA Luncheons**

September 9, 2025

December 9, 2025

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**(Since May Newsletter)**

Stanley L. Williams, Jr. (6/11/25)

Lisa Watson-Morgan (6/30/25)

# SPACE EXPLORATION WALL OF HONOR

Many of you attended the ribbon cutting and dedication of the Space Exploration Wall of Honor in April or saw the news coverage. Since that time, there has been a lot of activity on the MRA website, [www.marshallretirees.org](http://www.marshallretirees.org). Individuals are putting their bio and personal experiences in the website database, indicating the importance of recording their connection with the space program. To date, about 1,000 retirees have added their information. This was the plan and dream of the team led by Rick Chappell that made the Wall a reality through six years of hard work, redesigning, fund raising, Covid, weather and other challenges.



## FIRST ANNUAL SPACE EXPLORERS' CELEBRATION:

New NASA permanent employee names will be added to the Wall each year at an Annual Space Explorers' Celebration at the USSRC. The first Annual Space Explorers' Celebration will be held on **October 1, 2025**, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Wall adding 44 new names and at 5:30 p.m. dinner will be served in the Davidson Center, where retirees, friends and families can enjoy fellowship.

The City of Huntsville and the Madison County Commission proclaimed the month of October as Space Exploration month, so it is fitting to have this celebration in October.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Margrit von Braun, daughter of Dr. Wernher von Braun. Her talk will remember the formation of NASA and the role family members played in supporting their father. Dinner tickets may be purchased on the MRA website: [www.marshallretirees.org](http://www.marshallretirees.org) for \$65 per person. Proceeds from ticket sales will support NASA exhibits at the USSRC. If you prefer to pay by check/cash, contact Bennie Jacks at [benniejacks@att.net](mailto:benniejacks@att.net) or 256.603.0894. Questions regarding on-line purchases, contact Gray Settle, MRA Treasurer, [gsettle@gmail.com](mailto:gsettle@gmail.com) or 256.682.0334. Open seating, however, tables of eight may be reserved.

## MRA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Recently, I was searching for a summary of reasons why scholarships are important to college students. The ICOHS website does a good job of capturing seven reasons why scholarships are so important:

Ease the financial burden of tuition costs; help students graduate with less debt; help promote academic excellence; help open doors to career opportunities; help students focus on their studies; help increase academic opportunities for ALL students; help promote confidence and academic motivation; and help families with other associated costs and with long term investments in other members of the families and their higher education.

MRA has endowed a scholarship at the University of Alabama Huntsville and a recipient of that scholarship is chosen by UAH every year (or in the case of this year, two recipients were chosen).

MRA has also begun the process of raising funds to endow a scholarship at Alabama A&M University, and we have raised 20% of the funds needed. We appreciate the support of the members of MRA in supporting our scholarship efforts! If you would like to donate, please contact me at [n2250x@gmail.com](mailto:n2250x@gmail.com), or 256.417.7915, or Gray Settle, MRA Treasurer, at [gsettle@gmail.com](mailto:gsettle@gmail.com).

Jim Turner, Chair, MRA Scholarship Committee

## NASA DOCENTS AT WORK



NASA Docent Skeet Vaughn, 95, was honored by Hoover's Heroes on local TV station WHNT TV Channel 19 for his dedication to volunteering. He shows up weekly with his baby food jar of moon dust eager to walk the floors of the Davidson Center to tell visitors at the USSRC about his career and his experiences in the space program. Thank you, Skeet for your service.

# **MRA DOCENT KENNY MITCHELL INDUCTED INTO THE 2025 ALABAMA ENGINEERING HALL OF FAME**



The Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame was established in 1987 by the Governor of Alabama to honor the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have brought and continue to bring significant recognition to the State of Alabama.

Kenny is a 1967 graduate of Auburn University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was one of eight individuals in the State of Alabama inducted in 2025. Congratulations on receiving this distinguished honor!

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## **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 Sept. 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.

## MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER CELEBRATES 65 YEARS



MRA members attended and supported the MSFC 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Orion Amphitheater on July 19<sup>th</sup>. **Pictured are Docents Willie Weaver, Jack Stokes, Bennie Jacks, and Dennis Foster, along with MRA President Steve Cash.**

In addition to supporting this event, the MRA docents have participated in STEM events at Chaffee and Jones Valley Elementary Schools, Space Night at the Wicks Field Soccer Game, and the Space Missile & Defense Conference at the VBC. They will be supporting the National Cyber Summit Conference at the VBC on September 24 and 25, 2025.

Many thanks to Docents Ron Creel, Bruce Tiller and Richard Hoover, for their tabletop displays that interact with the young students and visitors. These dedicated docents are a significant element in encouraging young students to enter the science and math fields.



Retirees of the Astronics Laboratory meet monthly to share breakfast and fellowship. Seated LtoR: Jim Lewis, Mary Ann Lewis, Gray Settle, W. T. Powell, Marta Powell, Jerry Shoemaker, Opal Meek, Tom Lynch, Leslie Murphy, Ken Barfield, and Randy Bounds. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Gary Settle at [gsettle@gmail.com](mailto:gsettle@gmail.com).

## **Volunteer Opportunities:**

MRA needs the support of its members to achieve its goals and mission. Please share our skills and talents and enjoy working with fellow retirees. Listed here are some of the opportunities that need support:

**-Newsletter:** Contributing writers to prepare articles for inclusion in the newsletter. Contact: Jean Lee, 256.508.4203, [Bjeanlee@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:benniejacks@att.net).

**-Database:** Help with maintaining the Space Explorers Database. Contact: Gray Settle, 256.682.0334, [gsettle@gmail.com](mailto:gsettle@gmail.com).

## **MRA Docent Gary Wicks Tours House of Parliament**

Congressman Roger Aderholt escorted members of the House of Parliament on a tour of the USSRC. MRA docent Gary Wicks provided a guided tour of the facility sharing his personal experiences as a member of the space exploration team. Thank you, Gary, for your commitment to keeping space exploration at the forefront!



**LtoR: Congressman Roger Aderholt, Members of Parliament James Wild and Richard Holden and Docent and MRA Member Gary Wicks**

## **USSRC UPCOMING EVENTS**

Biergarten has returned this summer for the 12<sup>th</sup> year. A great opportunity for you and your family to enjoy authentic German Cuisine and live music. Admission is free and food may be purchased, all taking place under the gigantic Saturn V in the Davidson Center. Held each Thursday, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. from now to October 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## OBITUARIES

- Abbas**, Mian M. 91, of Huntsville, died December 5, 2024.
- Blocker**, James. R., 77, of Huntsville, died June 5, 2025.
- Bunnell**, Roger Edmund, 61, of Huntsville, died May 26, 2025.
- Boglio**, William (Bill) Lynn, 81, of Madison, died May 28, 2025.
- Chapman**, John Stuart, 74, of Huntsville, died June 30, 2025.
- Clark**, Johnnie Jerome, 67, of Huntsville, died July 28, 2025.
- Claunch**, William C. (Bill), 80, of Madison, died July 4, 2025.
- Cremin**, Joseph W. 89, of Huntsville, died June 14, 2025.
- French**, Kristie Ann, 65, of Huntsville, died June 21, 2025.
- Gleason**, Edmund Howe, 93, of Huntsville, died June 30, 2025.
- Harlow**, John Holland, Jr., 88, of Athens, died March 29, 2025.
- Haynes**, Michael Lee, 67, of Huntsville, died June 23, 2025.
- Jupiter**, Alvin Mortimer, 96, of Sun City Center, FL, died July 13, 2025.
- Lide**, Robert Steven, 69, of Huntsville, died April 13, 2025.
- Knaupp**, Jack Donald, 94, of Huntsville, died July 16, 2025.
- Mack**, Mary Elizabeth Hines, 96, of Huntsville, died June 24, 2025.
- Mason**, Edgar Darby, 88, of Huntsville, died July 7, 2025.
- Matheney**, Jack Lindell, 88, of Huntsville, died August 1, 2025.
- Mynatt**, Elaine Beddingfield, 76, of Guntersville, died July 5, 2025.
- Morris**, Paul W., 95, of Madison, died July 9, 2025.
- Newby**, George Elbert, 93, of Huntsville, died July 11, 2025.
- Robinson**, Nancy Scott, 75, of Fayetteville, TN, died July 5, 2025.
- Shelton**, Harvey L., 87, of Huntsville, died August 1, 2025.
- Tielking**, Sara Jane Griggs, 87, of Arab, died July 13, 2025.
- Till**, William (Bill) Allen, 72, of Somerville, died June 9, 2025.