

The Marshall Retiree Report
May 2019

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



Quarterly MRA Dinner

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 The Ledges

Social & Registration: 6 – 7 p.m. – Dinner: 7 p.m.

\$30.00 per person

Menu: Garden Salad, Chicken Marsala, Herbed Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea, Dessert: Key Lime Tart

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than **noon on Thursday, June 13, 2019**, at 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 2019:

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 – Luncheon

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 - Dinner

PROGRAM



“Growing up in Huntsville & Memories of Apollo Program”

Speaker:

**Dr. Margrit von Braun,
daughter of Dr. Wernher von Braun, and founder of TerraGraphics International Foundation (TIFO)**

Margrit von Braun is an environmental engineer, working in the areas of hazardous waste management and risk assessment, and is the daughter of Dr. Wernher von Braun. She holds degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Idaho (UI), and Washington State University. After working for the Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta, she moved to Idaho in 1977 to work for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. She joined the UI faculty in 1980 where she helped create and direct the Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering programs for 10 years and then served as dean of the College of Graduate Studies for a decade.

Von Braun received a three-year leadership fellowship from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Outstanding Faculty and Graduate Teaching Excellence Awards from UI. In 2012, she was elected as a Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini, an independent, international academy comprised of 180 international experts in the fields of occupational and environmental health. In 1984, von Braun and her husband, Ian von Lindern, founded an environmental engineering company focused on remediation of hazardous waste sites, particularly in mining districts.

Since retiring from UI and selling their company, von Braun and von Lindern founded TerraGraphics International Foundation (TIFO), a non-governmental organization assisting communities in reducing their environmental exposures. TIFO has partnered with Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders) on environmental health projects in Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan and Bangladesh.

Tribute to Former Center Director Thomas J. (Jack) Lee



To quote Lee Roop of the *Huntsville Times*, “Jack Lee was an Alabama boy who became a NASA pioneer”. Jack lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on February 24, 2019, in Birmingham’s Grandview Medical Center. As NASA colleagues, most of you know Jack’s professional career with NASA, being one of the original Army rocket engineers of the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency who transferred to the new Marshall Center in 1960. He served as the sixth Center Director of MSFC starting in 1989. He retired in 1995 and later founded Lee and Associates, LLC, a system engineering consulting firm and served as President until his death.

Comments from MSFC and community leaders follows:

“A list of the projects in which Jack made a significant contribution reads like a catalog of NASA activities; Saturn 1, Saturn 1-B, Saturn V, Centaur, Skylab, Spacelab, ISS, HEAO, Hubble Space Telescope, Chandra and numerous other projects and in-house assignments. His quiet demeanor and infectious personality enhanced his capability to work with all kinds of people. His memory will be a continuing inspiration to those of us whom he touched.”

W. R. Lucas, former Center Director, MSFC

“His working relationship that spanned nearly four decades of service at NASA and personal friendships we had with Jack have been a source of exceptional leadership, mentorship, and enjoyment to all of us at Marshall. We shall miss him greatly.”

Jody Singer, Center Director, MSFC

“Jack Lee was an outstanding mentor for me during my 40-year career at Marshall. He had that unique ability to provide challenging career assignments and then step back and allow that person to develop their own leadership and management skills. In my case, Jack had successfully negotiated with NASA Headquarters for Marshall to integrate the three JPL planetary spacecraft, Magellan, Galileo and Ulysses on the Marshall provided Inertial Upper Stage (IUS) and then certify the integrated spacecraft/IUS payload was ready to be installed into the Space Shuttle bay and launched. Jack shared his experiences on Spacelab and working with the ESA with me and allowed me the freedom to manage. All three spacecraft were successfully placed into their required planetary transfer orbit. Jack was a dear friend, a tremendous leader and a strong member and supporter of the Marshall Retirees Association.

Parker Counts, President, Marshall Retirees Association

“Jack Lee embraced the tradition and community character he helped to build. An early NASA adopter, he was up for a challenge. He sought to ensure that Huntsville and our nation would continue to blaze a trail of discovery and wealth, meaning wealth of knowledge, as well as financial prosperity. He knew that our children had to be prepared to step up and continue in the effort. He was part of the Rocket Center's board for two appointments, and I can say that during my tenure at the center he supported the build out of camp programs, particularly Aviation Challenge, and helped garner state and corporate support.”

Ed Buckbee, former Director, U. S. Space and Rocket Center

2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Dues for 2019 were due beginning January 1, 2019, with a grace period ending April 1, 2019. 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 June 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 or calling 256.883.2228.

Spacelab Semi-Annual Reunion Held on March 28, 2019 at Valley Hill Country Club



Tribute to Dr. Owen Garriott, Scientist, Astronaut and Leader



prescient because it was into that part of the space environment he would later fly.

With the maturing of NASA, science and human spaceflight began to merge and in 1965, Owen was selected among the first scientist astronauts for the Apollo program. He was ideally suited to become a member of the second crew to fly on the Skylab mission and used his scientific expertise to conduct investigations of the Sun and Earth, microgravity and life sciences. With the advent of the space shuttle, Owen was again a natural choice to be a crew member for the first spacelab mission to which he brought his scientific knowledge and spaceflight experience. Owen spent a total of more than two months in space.

Born into the Great Depression in Enid Oklahoma, Owen Garriott followed his scientific curiosity and drive for exploration to play a leading role in America's space program. An early interest in ham radio, inspired by his father, led him to a degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Oklahoma followed by a PhD in ionospheric physics at Stanford University. His choice of studying the Earth's ionosphere would prove to be

Talented, insightful, definitive, thoughtful of others, and a natural leader, Owen wore his fame with modesty and friendship. He has been a leading positive influence for the cooperation and accomplishment that have made America's space program so successful. He was a member of MRA.

By Rick Chappell, Friend and Colleague



USSRC Docent and MSFC Retiree Alex McCool celebrated his 95th birthday on December 28, 2018, with friends at the USSRC.

Pictured with McCool are Dennis Keim and Sandra Turner. Happy Birthday, Alex.

NASA/Marshall Activities

The Marshall Space Flight Center “Apollo 50th Summer Blast” will be on July 16, 2019, at the #4315 Walking Trail from 2:30-5:30 pm. This is open to employees, families, and retirees.

Although we will not be having a “NASA in the Park” this year, some NASA exhibits will support the Downtown Huntsville “Dancing in the Streets” on Huntsville Courthouse Square on July 16th from 5-9pm.
Submitted by Betty Grisham, MSFC Events Coordinator, 256.544.7178



As part of the Pass the Torch series, Ed Buckbee talks about “Dr. von Braun: The Rocket Man: His American Journey”. He spoke of how Huntsville facilities became the cradle of American spaceflight under the leadership of von Braun; his interest in what his team was thinking and doing; and his willingness to participate with NASA and worldwide activities.

Pass the Torch features innovative, influential and interesting professionals from industry, academia and government speaking about their work in space, aeronautics, engineering, science research and other related fields. The Pass the Torch series is open to the public and is a great way to reconnect with history, learn more about specialized topics or even catch a glimpse of an exciting future. Pass the Torch inspires and educates young and old alike. Visit rocketcenter.com to learn more about the lectures scheduled at the National Geographic Theater, USSRC and at the Huntsville Public Library. Many of these lectures are associated with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing this year.

Biergarten (Each Thursday through October 2019): Visit the USSRC Saturn V Hall in the Davidson Center each Thursday from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for Biergarten activities including authentic German food and beer, live music and dancing. Each week a portion of the proceeds is donated to selected local charities. A number of the Pass the Torch series are held in connection with Biergarten.

50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing Celebrations

MRA continues to be directly involved with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Landing on the Moon.

Recalling that there are 38 panel discussions throughout the year about MSFC involvement in the Apollo Program, we have accomplished 10 of the events, some at the US Space & Rocket Center and some at the Huntsville Main Public Library. Additionally, MRA members and docents have spoken seven times at local schools. Kenny Mitchell offered his excellent Huntsville historical presentation to seven different audiences.

Relative to the Lunar Rover replicas being built by Calhoun Community College and Polaris Industries, LLC. using MRA members as guidance counselors, the Calhoun rover mockup is now a centerpiece at the Space & Rocket Center in the exhibit, "Apollo; We Went to the Moon." The Polaris drivable version is well into progression and will be driven for the first time in a week or so.

The MRA is serving as a sponsor for the planned Celebration Car Show, depicting the cars driven by our space pioneers and their families "back in the day." The show is planned for July 13, to be held on the Space & Rocket Center grounds. It is open to the public, free of charge, and will offer very interesting and significant vehicles of the past, as well as the Polaris Lunar Rover replica. Please come out and vote for your favorite car. Printed programs and tee shirts will be available for purchase. Raffle drawings of space and automotive memorabilia will be offered on the hour. One can share car stories in our video booth, the results will go into the oral history archives at UAH. An auction of space memorabilia is being considered for the day, but is still in work. Also in work – keep your fingers crossed – will be one or more of the original astronaut Corvettes. It will be a fun day. Please come join us. For a complete listing of the events associated with the celebration, visit USSRC website: rocketcenter.com.

By Jack Stokes

MSFC WOMEN – THEN AND NOW



As part of the panel discussions held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, Ann McNair and Teresa Vanhooser led discussions about the roles of women in rocket development; past/present/future. Left to Right: Lisa McCollum, Sandy Coleman, Liz Hurley (WAFF-TV), Teresa VanHooser, Bennie Jacks, Mary Beth Koelbl, and Angelia Walker.

Vice President Mike Pence's Visit to USSRC

On March 26, 2019, Vice President Mike Pence came to Huntsville to chair the meeting of the National Space Council. Although the visit was short, he toured Space Camp and the USSRC. Our own docents had the opportunity to meet the Vice President.



Space Exploration Memorial Committee

The Space Exploration Memorial Committee, chaired by Rick Chappell continues to explore the options for an appropriate memorial to be located on the grounds of the USSRC, honoring the 15,000+ civil service employees/contractors at Marshall involved in the exploration of space. Three subcommittees have been established:

Members Database: Sandra Turner
Design: Jim Splawn
Fundraising: Chris Crumbly

Sandra Turner and her committee have been compiling names with the help of Marshall's Human Capital Office and hope to have a database ready for the July celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing. If you have input, questions, or want to get involved, contact Rick Chappell at: rick.chappell@vanderbilt.edu.

Celebrating Dr. von Braun's Birthday

March 23, 1912



Each year a group of ladies who provided administrative support to Dr. von Braun and his staff meet to celebrate his birthday. Standing: (L-R) Gail Ralls, Jan Zielinski, AnneMarie Hall, Nancy Guire, Wanda Carlen. Seated: (L-R) Carol Byler, Gayle Wynne, Sandra Turner, and Mary Spaulding. One person missing from this group is Ruth von Saurma. She returned to Germany to be near her family. We miss this special lady.

2019 Spinoff Publication



Keeping astronauts healthy often requires innovations that advance medicine on Earth too – but that's not the only way NASA's work benefits human health. NASA pioneers new materials and tools that end up in operating rooms and doctor's bags around the world. The Health section of the Spinoff publication highlights sutures used in heart surgery, "paints" that highlight DNA damage from radiation, and a unique polymer that's been used on hundreds of thousands of pacemakers – all tracing their roots to a need or expertise stemming from NASA missions. View Spinoff 2019 on line at: www.nasa.gov, or request a copy from: Space Technology Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546.



Obituaries

Note: One of the sources of obtaining a list of obituaries has been the Marshall Star. We have learned that obituaries will no longer be published in the Marshall Star. Opal Meeks, a MSFC retiree, searches the obituaries each day to find MSFC retirees and she will be our main resource in the future. Also, we would appreciate your letting us know of fellow retirees' death. Since we did not publish a MRA newsletter in February, this list includes names that would have been published in that issue.

- Ahlander**, Dan, 83 of Huntsville, AL, died March 23, 2019.
- Allen**, Phillip W., 81 of Huntsville, AL, died February 10, 2019.
- Blanteno**, James S., 77 of Ardmore, AL, died April 30, 2019.
- Bradshaw**, Charles, 95 of Lebanon, TN, died April 12, 2019.
- Buckelew**, Volis Latrell, of Horton, AL, died January 1, 2019.
- Bryant**, Melvin Alexander, of Decatur, AL, died December 19, 2018.
- Capps**, John David, 85 of Huntsville, AL, died January 19, 2019.
- Chase**, John Bell Edmund, 93 of Huntsville, AL, died April 3, 2019.
- Clark**, James William, 93 of Huntsville, AL, died April 23, 2019.
- Cooper**, James Luther, 87 of Madison, AL, died April 7, 2019.
- Cornelius**, Donald W., 87 of Owens Cross Roads, AL, died April 10, 2019.
- Cox**, Phyllis Ann, 62 of Huntsville, AL, died May 9, 2019.
- Craig**, Charles Larry, 81 of Huntsville, AL, died January 19, 2019.
- Crumbly**, Andrew B., 81, of Meridianville, AL, died October 18, 2018.
- Crumpton**, Walt, 100, of Huntsville, AL, died May 12, 2019.
- Davis**, Carl Moody, 83 of Owens Cross Roads, AL, died December 30, 2018.
- Euler**, Harold, Jr., 89 of Cullman, AL, died December 9, 2018.



Obituaries (Continued)

Fernandez, Jaime Benito, 77 of Huntsville, AL, died February 18, 2019.

Fitzgerald, George O., 82 of Huntsville, AL died February 27, 2019.

Gamblin, Charles Robert, 83 of Grant, AL, died May 1, 2019.

Garriott, Owen K., 88 of Huntsville, AL, died April 15, 2019.

Harris, David D., 70 of Huntsville, AL, died September 29, 2018.

Harvey, George E., 87 of Huntsville, AL, died January 8, 2019.

Johnson, Charlie F., 90 of Huntsville, AL, died February 25, 2019.

Jones, Marjorie H., 93 of Huntsville, AL, died December 30, 2018.

Lee, Thomas J. (Jack), 83, of New Market, AL, died February 24, 2019.

Maus, Louis Christopher, 85 of Hazel Green, AL, died February 8, 2019.

McDaniel, Fred V., 90 of Huntsville, AL, died February 5, 2019.

McMinn, Travis J., 90 of Huntsville, AL, died March 8, 2019.

Miller, Wilma Jean Nipper, 87, of Huntsville, AL, died January 12, 2019.

Nichols, Jack J., 83 of Huntsville, AL, died December 19, 2018.

O'Donnell, Marvin, 95 of Huntsville, AL, died April 25, 2019.

Priskos, Alex S., 59 of Huntsville, AL, died December 31, 2018.

Rheinfurth, Mario H., 89 of Huntsville, AL, died May 9, 2019.

Rutland, Cary H., 84 of Huntsville, AL, died December 15, 2018.

Sprinkle, Charles E., 83 of Smyrna, TN, died January 21, 2019.

Stephens, James S., 59 of Madison, AL, died March 15, 2019.

Whitacre, Walter, E., 87 of Huntsville, AL, died May 2, 2019.

Yost, Vaughn Herbert, 86 of Decatur, AL, died January 10, 2019.

Zimmerman, Joe E., 81 of Huntsville, AL, died April 7, 2019.