



***NASA/MSFC Retirees Association***

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

**MAY 2022 ISSUE**

**WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.....**



**PLEASE READ ARTICLE ON PAGES 2 AND 3 REGARDING THE SPACE EXPLORATION MEMORIAL AND ITS FUTURE**

**MRA QUARTERLY LUNCHEON – JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> 11:00 AM**

**MENU AND PROGRAM SPEAKERS ON PAGES 4 AND 5**

# SPACE EXPLORATION MEMORIAL

**NOTE: PLEASE READ THIS ARTICLE VERY CLOSELY AS IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPACE EXPLORATION MEMORIAL AND ITS FUTURE**

Beginning in 2018, a group of MRA members had a vision to create a Space Exploration Memorial, containing the names of past and present MSFC employees, that would be located at the USSRC amidst the rockets that have made the space journey possible. A plan was put in place to design and raise funds for a memorial. As we all know, the pandemic had a tremendous impact on any fundraising activities.

During this time, we continued to give updates in the MRA newsletters and solicited donations from our members, as well as solicited funds from outside sources.

**As of today, we are reached a defining moment!** Through the support of Dr. Kimberly Robinson, USSRC CEO and MRA member, a beautiful concept for the Memorial based on coordinated inputs from the USSRC and MRA has been created by local architects Matheny and Goldman. Images of the memorial wall in the transformed Rocket Park are shown here.



## **SPACE EXPLORATION MEMORIAL (Continued)**

So far, donations from individuals range from \$50 to \$25,000 and total more than \$110,000. Contributions from the County Commission and other organizations total \$60,000, with a pledge from the City of Huntsville of \$200,000 over four years and indications of support from the state and other organizations of \$10's of 1,000's. These gifts and pledges total about \$400,000. To create the Memorial wall and plaza will require \$750,000. As of today, we only had 65 MRA members of our 180 members who have contributed.

The contractor will be selected by the USSRC this August to do the Rocket Park transformation which will be carried out over the following year. The MRA Space Exploration Memorial will be part of that construction if we **raise the \$350,000 balance that we need between now and end of August 2022.**

### **IT'S TIME TO BUILD!!! PLEASE RESPOND**

**You may donate on line at: [www.marshallretirees.org](http://www.marshallretirees.org) and click "Donate". Be sure to designate the donation to the Space Exploration Memorial or you may mail a check with the insert contained with this newsletter or bring your check to the June 14<sup>th</sup> MRA luncheon at The Ledges.**



# *MRA QUARTERLY LUNCHEON*

*TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022*

*THE LEDGES*

*SOCIAL & REGISTRATION 11 - 12 NOON*

*LUNCH 12 NOON*

*MENU:*

*GARDEN SALAD,  
PAN-SEARED CHICKEN BREAST WITH CREAMY  
GRITS, VEGETABLE MEDLEY, DINNER ROLLS,  
COFFEE & TEA*

*DESSERT: LEMON ICE BOX PIE*

*COST: \$25.00 PER PERSON*

*CASH ONLY BAR*

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than noon on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at [benniejacks@att.net](mailto:benniejacks@att.net), or cell phone: 256.603.0894. A 72-hour cancellation notice is required by The Ledges

## PROGRAM SPEAKERS

### TOPIC: “UPDATE ON THE JWST”



Dr. Helen Cole is a Project Manager within the Science, Research and Projects Division of the Science and Technology Directorate at MSFC. From 2007-2015, Dr. Cole served as

Project Manager of James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) activities, which included optical verification testing of all 18 Primary Mirror segments, cryogenic testing of the JWST flight Primary Mirror Backplane Structure and testing of significant optical ground systems used for integration by GSFC. She also served as a liaison to GSFC JWST Sunshield management as a NASA rep at NeXolve LLC. in Huntsville, during JWST sunshield membrane layer fabrication and testing.



Mr. Jim Moore is the President and CEO of NeXolve in Huntsville. He

has 33 years’ experience in design and analysis of advanced aerospace hardware. He served as Program Manager on NeXolve’s subcontract to design, manufacture and test the James Webb Space Telescope Sun Shield Membrane Sub-System. He has authored and co-authored 34 technical papers and a chapter in the AIAA Gossamer Spacecraft Design Textbook.

## CELEBRATION OF DR. LUCAS' 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



On March 1, 2022, MRA members, former colleagues, friends and family came together to celebrate Dr. Lucas' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The "Drive-By/Stop-and-Chat on the Front Lawn" was an opportunity to recognize this special day and stay healthy with Covid still here. This is an excerpt from his email to MRA:

"I am grateful for all who came to see me. It reminded me again of how fortunate I am to have been involved with all of you in projects of such national and international significance. I am grateful that our projects were so large that no one person nor even a small group could do them alone, and small enough that even the least task could be recognized appropriately. Our projects required a team of many different talents all bound together in common purpose. That is what I remember and what excites me to this very day. *Bill Lucas* "

## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Dues for 2022 were due beginning January 1, 2022. 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 14<sup>th</sup>.

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 change, please 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 so we can keep our records up to date.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (since last newsletter)

Billy G. Bass

Alan S. Chow

Kathryn E. Hayden

Kathy G. Huskey

## BOOK REVIEW by Jay Foster

### *THE SECRET G.I. SCIENTISTS OF REDSTONE ARSENAL*

Author: Ernest Pierce

Dr. von Braun and his team arrived at Redstone Arsenal from Ft. Bliss in 1950, and the Army wanted the Team to hit the ground running. Therefore, the Army provided 150 draftee scientists (really engineers), from all engineering disciplines and from all over the United States. Some members of this group included Jim Kingsbury and Bob Lindstrom, along with Carl Bergstrom, John Aberg, Clarence Fulmer, Charles Hilderbrand, and Eugene McKannan.

Redstone Arsenal was completely shut down when the von Braun team and the GI engineers arrived. This led to some interesting assignments. One buck private engineer was assigned to be the Facility Manager of all 112 square miles of Redstone Arsenal. Later, in 1953 the Army sent another 150 young draftee engineers to join the von Braun Team, and in 1955 the Army sent a third and last group of 150 young draftee engineers to join the von Braun team. I, Jay Foster, was a member of the third and last group.

One of the members of the first group, Ernest Pierce, decided to write about his experiences after he returned home from this enlistment. He wrote a small book entitled the same as this article. Ernest Pierce gave a copy to Norman Shapiro, who worked with him during his GI years and Norman gave the book to me. Jean Lee has checked with the UAH Special Collections Department and they do have a copy in the NASA archives. Jean will hold my copy as part of MRA archives, if you would like to read it.

I thought things were strange that I was 24 and in Basic Training with eighteen- year olds. The Korean war was over, and yet the Army was still drafting people. This fact led me to speculate on how the Army could guarantee that they could provide 150 engineers at each of the three periods, i.e. 1950, 1953, and 1955. The Army must have had a way to assign quotas to the U.S. States and cities. I believe the “secret” in the book title is the primary reason there is little known about The Secret G. I. Scientists of Redstone Arsenal.



## MRA Website, Memorial Database and Social Media Update by Gray Settle

The Memorial database portion of the website continues to be updated, as needed. Background information for former and current MSFC personnel in the Memorial database is added when submitted by self, family, friends, and colleagues.

We will have an additional website capability to include “stories” soon. When career NASA/contractors get together, interesting stories are told about past events, projects, personal perspectives, etc. This effort is an attempt at capturing these stories and making them available for enjoyment via the website. Plans also call for a kiosk at the Memorial whereby visitors can access the database to find family members and/or friends who were MSFC employees or contractors.

Please remember that the current MRA newsletter as well as previous newsletters are archived on the MRA website 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.

As you have read at the beginning of this newsletter, fundraising for the Memorial continues and contributions may be submitted through the website, a GoFundMe account, or direct mail (form enclosed in this newsletter for direct mail). Contributors of funds are added to the MRA website, with permission. Below are the websites:

**[www.marshallretirees.org](http://www.marshallretirees.org)**

**[www.gofundme.com/f/build-the-space-exploration-memorial](http://www.gofundme.com/f/build-the-space-exploration-memorial)**

**[www.facebook.com/marshallretirees](http://www.facebook.com/marshallretirees)**

**[www.facebook.com/spaceexplorershsv](http://www.facebook.com/spaceexplorershsv)**

Contact Gray Settle at: [gsettle@gmail.com](mailto:gsettle@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## NASA/MSFC RETIREES ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP -2021-2022 School Year

The recipient of the 2021-2022 NASA/MSFC Retirees Association Scholarship is freshman Tetiana Tymoshevska. She is working toward a degree in aerospace engineering. Below are excerpts from her thank you letter to MRA:

“Thank you so much for your scholarship and the contributions it has made in my life. Without this money, I would not be able to go to college and explore all the possibilities available at UAH. Participating in the Space Hardware Club has allowed me to meet many new people, learn a lot of new and different skills such as programming and applying aerodynamics in simulations. College is an amazing experience.”

Jim Turner, MRA Scholarship Committee Chair, attended the Annual UAH Scholarship Donor Breakfast on March 31, 2022. Congratulations to Tetiana! She has been invited to attend our June 14<sup>th</sup> MRA Quarterly Luncheon.

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### UAH Library Special Collections and Archives

Do you have boxes of Marshall files, photographs, etc.? Please do not let these end up in the dumpster when you are no longer with us. Many have donated their papers to the Special Collections Department located at the UAH Library.

Reagan Grimsley heads this department and will be glad to pick up any collections that you wish to donate. He also urges you to contact him and visit the archives and vault to see first hand the great job they are doing to preserve history.

Also, put this information with your important papers so that you family will know your wishes: Reagan Grimsley, 256.824.5781, email: [Reagan.grimsley@uah.edu](mailto:Reagan.grimsley@uah.edu).



## OBITUARIES

- Boylen**, Corrine Gayle, 86, of Huntsville, died March 29, 2022  
**Butler**, Robert (Bob) E., 88, of Huntsville, died February 14, 2022.  
**Cannon**, Clarissa Jean Piner, 93, of Huntsville, died April 6, 2022.  
**Collins**, Rufus Davis, 89, of Huntsville, died April 6, 2022.  
**Cosby**, Jimmy Wayne, 86, of Rogersville, died February 14, 2022.  
**Diggs**, Thomas Edwin, 86, of Huntsville, died March 23, 2022.  
**Douglas**, Joseph Donald, 89, of Huntsville, died January 29, 2022.  
**Euterneck**, Ernst Theodor (Ernst Evers), 98, of Huntsville, died March 3, 2022.  
**Flynt**, William E., 91, of Fayetteville, TN, died March 24, 2022.  
**Gillespie**, James Walter, 82, of Huntsville, died March 19, 2022.  
**Hoodless**, Ralph M., 87, of Huntsville, died February 16, 2022.  
**Jordan**, Wallace Earl, 90, of Huntsville, died April 1, 2022.  
**Landers**, Joe C., 89, of Huntsville, died February 9, 2022.  
**LeFan**, Joseph Floyd, 90, of Huntsville, died May 6, 2022.  
**Lindner**, Christelle Hendren, 52, of Huntsville, died April 19, 2022.  
**Mabry**, James Eugene, 85, of Naples, FL, died April 8, 2022.  
**Malkmus**, Bernard Richard, 90, of Decatur, died April 7, 2022.  
**McMillan**, Vernon James, 95, of Huntsville, died March 17, 2022.  
**McMurtrie**, Louis Ray, 73, of Harvest, died April 10, 2022.  
**Perkinson**, Jan, 78, of Huntsville, died February 23, 2022.  
**Phillips**, Robert Wesley, 81, of Rogersville, died March 6, 2022.  
**Schmitz**, Gert Friedrich Franz, 94, of Huntsville died May 7, 2022.  
**Spivey**, William Tolbert, 90, of Harvest, died March 29, 2022.  
**Stevens**, Robert Lee, 82, of Huntsville, died April 14, 2022.  
**Wells**, Fae, 87, of Huntsville, died December 6, 2021.