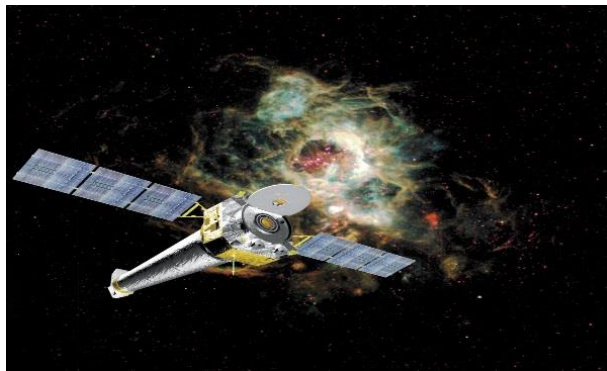




NASA/MSFC Retirees Association

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

AUGUST 2024 ISSUE



QUARTERLY MRA LUNCHEON

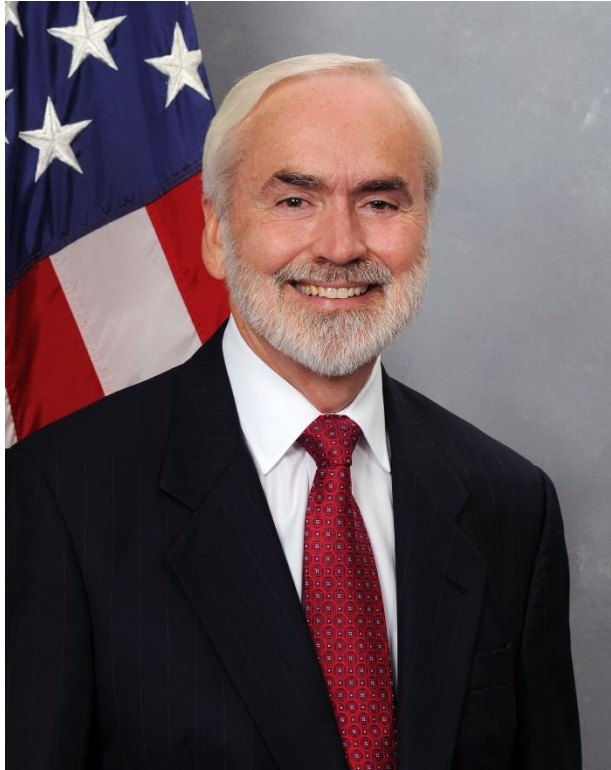
*Tuesday, September 10, 2024 The Ledges
Social & Registration 11 - 11:45; Lunch. 11:45 - 12:15;
Business & Speaker 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.*

*Slow-Cooked Pot Roast, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal
Vegetable Medley. Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea. Dessert:
Carrot Cake*

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than **Thursday, September 5**, 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 SPEAKER



Dr. Joe Fitzgerald is President of Decision Sciences Company, LLC, specializing in business growth consulting. He has been a business, civic and community leader for more than 4 decades.

He is the immediate Past Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for Alabama (North), and was appointed as CASA Emeritus in 2023. He is Past Chairman of the Alabama Space Science Exhibits Commission (U.S. Space and Rocket Center); Past-President of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition; and Past-President of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Redstone-Huntsville Chapter; and is Past AUSA State President.

He founded Honor Flight Tennessee Valley in 2006 and carried 1310 WWII Veterans safely to and from their Memorials in Washington D.C.

Dr. Fitzgerald received a Bachelor of Arts from UAH; a Master of Science from Alabama A&M University; and completed Doctoral post-graduate work in Science and Technology Management at Hartford Graduate School, and Southeastern Institute of Technology.

Message from the President:

I hope you had a great summer. Time seems to just fly by. I appreciate all who represented MRA at NASA in the Park in June where over 15,000 people attended. We had a great time seeing old friends and celebrating NASA and the Marshall Space Flight Center. The Space and Rocket Center opened Rocket Park again on July 18th, and many of you were a part of the opening. Thanks for your support. The Space Explorers Wall of Honor is well underway. They have measured the wall for the panels with the names, and it will not be long before we start seeing the panels installed. The memorial wall will be a tribute to you and all the hard work that you accomplished in your career.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Quarterly luncheon on September 10 at The Ledges. The Speaker will be Dr. Joe Fitzgerald, the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus. The doors open at 11:00 and lunch at 11:45.

Steve Cash

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mark for calendars for the remaining quarterly luncheon meetings in 2024:
December 10, 2024

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

INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues for 2024 were due beginning January 1, 2024, 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 luncheon on September 10, 2024.

While membership dues have remained constant for many years, and with the increase in administrative costs of newsletter printing and mailings, guest speakers' meals and honorariums, and technical support to the MRA website and honor roll, the Board has reviewed the dues. In addition, while MRA is supporting a UAH Endowed Scholarship, the Scholarship Committee is exploring opportunities to expand scholarships to USSRC Space Camps, Alabama A&M, Drake State, and others. A portion of the additional dues will allow MRA to play a role in funding scholarships to promote space careers for young deserving students. **The Board voted to raise the dues to \$50 per year beginning January 1, 2024.**

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (Since Last Newsletter)

Jody Singer (Jody retired in 2023 as the 12th Center Director of MSFC.)

Steve Beale (Steve retired from MSFC in 2008 as Director of the Procurement Office. He ran his own company, IHN, LLC, until fully retiring in 2019.)

SPACE EXPLORATION WALL OF HONOR



The concrete structure portion of the Space Exploration Wall of Honor has been completed. The design and layout of the 20 stainless steel panels containing the NASA names has been completed. The manufacturing and engraving of the panels, which involves plasma cutting of the names into the panels, is starting at Alabama Metal Art company in Florence. The panels contain 21,500 names of past and present NASA employees and will cover 75 years of Huntsville space exploration history.

A kiosk located in front of the Wall of Honor contains the location of names on the wall, as well as career information and stories about NASA employees as well as contractor employees, that can be downloaded to your phone while you are visiting the Wall. The kiosk has been delivered and the software is being finalized.

The MRA is working with the USSRC to host a dedication celebration for the Wall of Honor. It is anticipated that the event will be held annually when new names are added to the wall.

MRA has raised almost \$1,000,000 to build the Wall. However, additional funds are needed to complete the Wall and support the operation and updating of the Wall in future years. Donations are encouraged on the MRA website.

MRA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AT WORK

The annual UAH scholarship breakfast was held on the UAH campus this Spring, bringing together students and their sponsors of scholarships. MRA Scholarship Chair Jim Turner attended the event, at which this year's MRA endowed UAH scholarship recipient, Tetiana Tymoshevskya, was recognized. Ms. Tymoshevskya recently completed her junior year in aerospace engineering. She thanked MRA for the scholarship which allowed her to continue her studies.

For the second year in a row, MRA made a contribution to support Oakwood University's Camp Oaks, held on the Oakwood campus this summer. The camp is tailored for elementary and middle school-age students in the greater northwest Huntsville area, offering dynamic learning and exploration in (STEAM).

For the second year in a row, MRA made a contribution to support a student intern in Drake's Frontiers Research Program. Student interns from Drake State's Advanced Manufacturing Division make up the Frontiers team. Their work is twofold: test materials and processes used in 3D printing technology to help develop construction techniques suitable for building landing pads, roads, and other large structures on Earth and in space, and to develop curriculum for training a new workforce of technicians specialized in 3D construction techniques.

THE MEATBALL TURNS 65



NASA's official logo nicknamed the meatball turned 65 on July 15, 2024. The red, white, and blue design, which includes elements representing NASA's space and aeronautics missions, became the official logo of the United States' new space agency in 1959. A simplified version of NASA's formal seal, the symbol has launched on rockets, flown to the Moon and beyond, and even adorns the International Space Station. Happy Birthday!

CHANDRA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



Following extensive development and testing by a contract team managed and led by Marshall, Chandra was lifted to space aboard the space shuttle Columbia on July 23, 1999. Marshall has continued to manage the program for NASA ever since. Everything Chandra has shown us over the last 25 years – the formation of galaxies and super star clusters, the behavior and evolution of supermassive black holes, and proof of dark matter and gravitational wave events has been fascinating. Chandra has opened new windows in astrophysics that we'd hardly begun to imagine in the years prior to launch.

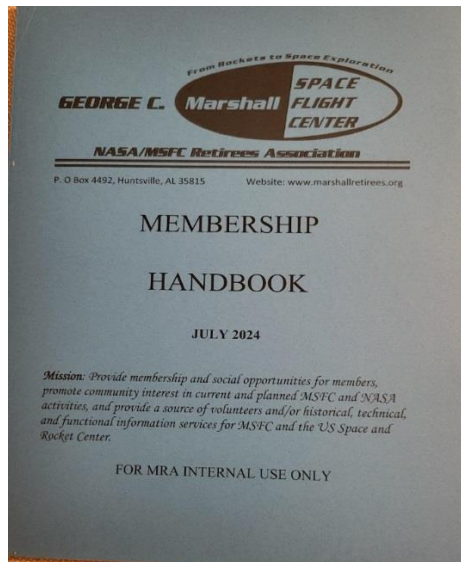
NASA IN THE PARK – JUNE 22, 2024



Pictured are Bennie Jacks, Rick Chappell, Maggie Clark Powell (CEO of the National Space Club) and docent Heidi Collier. Attendees of all ages packed the park to enjoy NASA exhibits and science demonstrations, giveaways, food vendors, and live music at the event. Approximately 15,000 people attended.

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 September 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 arrangements will be made to mail a copy to you. We emphasize that the handbook is for MRA Internal Use Only, and should not be shared with outside organizations.



ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS RESUME AT UAH

As you may recall, Dr. Chuck Lundquist back in 2006, led a project of video recording Marshall employees as part of the Oral History data gathering at UAH. The effort between the MSFC Historian Office and the UAH Artifacts & Special Collections Division continued intermittently through 2016. These recordings have proven to be useful to the University and the public for information and research efforts.

The UAH researchers have asked that recordings be resumed. Hence, please be prepared to join us in recording MSFC stories, with a focus on MRA members. If you are willing to participate in this effort, please contact Jack Stokes at 256-468-2743 or email: jackstokes1962@gmail.com.



DYNAMIC TEST STAND ONE OF 19 STRUCTURES TO BE DEMOLISHED IN 2024- 2025

At the June luncheon, Center Director Joe Pelfrey shared with MRA members the strategic plan for Marshall facilities. That plan calls for the take down of 19 obsolete structures, including the Dynamic Test Stand. Built in 1964, the Stand initially was used to test fully assembled Saturn V rockets. In 1978, engineers also integrated all space shuttle elements for the first time, including the orbiter, external fuel tank and solid rocket boosters.

“These facilities are not required for current or future missions, and the demolition will help Marshall transition to a more modern, sustainable, and affordable future,” stated Pelfrey. He also stated that, “to preserve NASA history, the agency has worked with architectural historians over the years on detailed drawings, written histories, and large-format photographs of the sites. Those documents are part of the Library of Congress’s permanent Historic American Engineering Record collection, making their history and accomplishments available to the public for generations to come.”

Demolition will start in late 2024 and end in 2025. It’s hard to say good bye to an old friend...

PHOTO GALLERY – JUNE LUNCHEON



Center Director Joseph Pelfrey and
Program Chair Bobby Watkins



Former Center Director Jody Singer
and Chris Singer



Jean Payne, Mary Spaulding, Connie
& Larry Butler



Bennie Jacks, Jack Stokes, & Jean
Lee



OBITUARIES

- Bailey**, Doyle James, 90, of Huntsville, died May 31, 2024.
Campbell, Evelyn Linville, 93, of Huntsville, died May 30, 2024.
Chenault, Alice Adele, 80, of Huntsville, died July 19, 2024
Deuel, Earl Calvin, 100, of Huntsville, died June 14, 2024.
Donald, E. G., (Don), 83, of Pineapple, died August 10, 2023. (MRA member)
Edwards, William Jarrell, 87, of Huntsville, died July 14, 2024.
Ellsworth, Landa Thornton, 80, of Rogersville, died July 24, 2018.
Ellis, Shirley Ann, 84, of Blanche, TN, died July 8, 2024. (MRA member)
Friday, Ruth Boyd, 95, of Huntsville, died July 20, 2024.
Guzinsky, Leon, 88, of Huntsville, died June 12, 2024.
James, Jean, 92, of Huntsville, died June 2, 2024.
Reeves, Elton Howard, 86, of Priceville, died June 2, 2024.
Salter, Larry Downing, 79 of Birmingham, died June 3, 2024.
Self, Deemer Otto, 92, of Huntsville, died July 29, 2024 (MRA member)
Scott, Julie M., 79 of Trenton, GA, died May 25, 2024.
Turner, Harold Kenneth, 91, of Harvest, died June 23, 2024.
Vann, Ursula Mrazek, 85, of Huntsville, died June 22, 2024.
Worlund, Armis Len, 89, of Huntsville, died June 10, 2024. (MRA member)

The Shuttle Buddies Breakfast Club has suffered a great loss with the passing of Deemer Self. He led the group through Covid and closing of restaurants by adjusting and continuing to contact them to come on the first Monday of each month. RIP Deemer.